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United Nations

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

Forty-second session (10 June-5 July and 9 July 2002)

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Supplement No. 16 (A/57/16)

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Abbreviations

CEB	United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECPS	Executive Committee on Peace and Security
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HIV/AIDS	Human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
HLCM	High-level Committee on Management
HLCP	High-level Committee on Programmes
IMF	International Monetary Fund
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
ODCCP	Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
OIOS	Office of Internal Oversight Services
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UN-NADAF	United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s
WTO	World Trade Organization

Chapter I

Organization of the session

1. The Committee for Programme and Coordination held its organizational session (1st meeting) at United Nations Headquarters on 13 May 2002 and its substantive session from 10 June to 5 July and on 9 July 2002. It held a total of 20 meetings and a number of information consultations.

A. Agenda

2. The agenda for the forty-second session, adopted by the Committee at its 1st meeting, is contained in annex I.

3. At its organizational session (1st meeting), on 13 May 2002, the Committee approved its programme of work for the forty-second session as contained in document E/AC.51/2002/L.2. It agreed, without prejudice to the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/57/85) during the first part of its forty-second session and decided to review, if necessary, the holding of a second part of the session at a later stage.

4. In adopting the agenda, the Committee, in accordance with the decision taken at its organizational session, decided to consider at its forty-second session the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Strengthening the investigations function in United Nations system organizations" (A/56/282) and the related comments by the Secretary-General and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon (A/56/282/Add.1).

B. Election of officers

5. At its organizational meeting (1st meeting) on 13 May 2002, the Committee elected, by acclamation, Thomas Freidrich Heinrich **Mazet** (Germany) Chairman of the Committee for the forty-second session.

6. At its 1st and 6th meetings, on 13 May and 12 June, the Committee elected, by acclamation, the following members of the Bureau for the forty-second session:

Vice-Chairpersons:

Collen Vixen **Kelapile** (Botswana)
Seyed Morteza **Mirmohammad** (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Beata **Baranska** (Poland)

Rapporteur:

Alejandro **Torres Lépori** (Argentina)

C. Attendance

7. The following States members of the Committee were represented:

Argentina
Bahamas
Bangladesh
Botswana
Brazil
Cameroon
China
Cuba
Ethiopia
France
Gabon
Germany
Indonesia
Islamic Republic of Iran
Italy
Japan
Mauritania
Mexico
Nigeria
Pakistan
Peru
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Russian Federation
San Marino
Tunisia
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Zimbabwe

8. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers:

Algeria
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Barbados
Benin
Burkina Faso
Costa Rica
Croatia
Czech Republic
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Egypt
Fiji
Greece
Guatemala
India
Ireland
Jamaica
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Monaco
Mongolia
Nepal
Philippines
Romania
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Uganda

9. The following regional commissions were represented:

Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
Regional Commissions New York Office

10. Also present at the session were the Under-Secretary-General for Management, the Legal Counsel, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Executive Director of the secretariat of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Controller, the Assistant Secretary-General for Mission Support, the Assistant Secretary-General, Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries, and senior officials of the United Nations Secretariat.

11. At the invitation of the Committee, Khalil Issa Othman, Inspector of the Joint Inspection Unit, also participated in the work of the Committee.

D. Documentation

12. The list of documents before the Committee at its forty-second session is set out in annex II.

E. Adoption of the report of the Committee

13. At its 20th meeting, on 5 and 9 July 2002, the Committee adopted the draft report on the work of its forty-second session (E/AC.51/2002/L.6 and Add.1-33).

Chapter II

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

(Item 3)

A. Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2004-2005

14. At its 18th and 19th meetings, on 24 and 25 June 2002, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/57/85).

15. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2004-2005 and responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

16. The Committee welcomed the timely submission of the outline and reaffirmed that in the consideration of the outline and through the entire budgetary process, provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 should be fully respected. Support was expressed for the priorities outlined in the document, which reflected those priorities set out in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1).[1]

17. It was noted that the outline provided a preliminary indicative estimate of requirements for the period. However, the view was expressed that further clarifications were required on several aspects. Support was expressed for the continued implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2). It was observed that the outline did not clearly reflect any movement of resources from low-priority to high-priority areas. Queries were raised as to the emphasis on the areas of human rights and humanitarian affairs and common support services, as reflected in terms of percentage resource change outlined in the annex to document A/57/85. With regard to the level of the outline, concern was expressed that proposals reflected the addition of new mandates without reprioritizing existing programmes. It was noted that the proposed budget outline contained no concrete proposals for efficiency measures and did not reflect the impact of full implementation of regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. It was stated that it was not clear whether the proposals reflected a continued commitment to budgetary discipline and the impact of the implementation of reform initiatives, including further streamlining. In particular, concern was expressed regarding the need to take into account expected efficiency gains arising from the implementation of results-based budgeting and human resource management reform. The view was expressed that the amount of $44.9 million of the $59.3 million for strengthening the security and safety of United Nations premises should be deducted as one-time costs in 2002-2003. It was noted that even the current service cutbacks, which negatively affected the quality of service delivery, could not be sustained in the long run without becoming counterproductive, and efforts should be made to bring services to a level that would not prejudice programme delivery any further.

18. Clarification was sought regarding the full provision for new posts. It was noted that the amount for full provision in 2004-2005 for posts newly approved in 2002-2003 resulted from the application of current standard methodology. The view was expressed that the practice of budgeting for newly created professional posts on a 50 per cent basis should be continued so as to take into account the time necessary for recruitment. It was stated that when new Professional posts were proposed the Secretary-General should provide information on their full financial impact in subsequent budget periods. At the same time, support was expressed regarding the consideration of costing future new post proposals on a full-cost basis so as to avoid the delayed impact of growth in subsequent bienniums. In particular, it was asked whether the ongoing human resource reform initiatives would reduce recruitment delays to levels consistent with such a methodology. On the other hand, the view was also expressed that the proposal for full budgetary provisions for new posts should be commended.

19. With regard to provisions for information technology and common services, it was stated that no efficiency savings appeared to be identified. The view was expressed that there was no basis for including the amount of $29.8 million for restoring funds that were not approved for the programme budget for 2002-2003. It was also stated that the General Assembly had set a prerequisite for significant investment in information technology, i.e., a clear, coherent strategy. Clarifications were sought regarding the relationship between the Integrated Management Information System and other information technology. Queries were raised regarding the implications of supplementary information technology and common services for conference services. It was noted that proposals should include sufficient resources for conference services to bring the services to a level that would meet the requirements of Member States and to rectify the current circumstances, especially for meetings of the regional groups. It was also stated that it was not clear how proposed increases in common services related to programme priorities.

20. With regard to special political missions, it was noted that the consideration of the inclusion of these activities in the regular budget was an important issue, and that a different treatment, similar to that for the financing of peacekeeping operations and international tribunals, might be considered. The question was raised as to why the difficulties related to the treatment of these activities had not been brought to the attention of the Committee earlier. Concern was expressed as to how such missions could be planned under the regular budget when they were not treated in accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. It was recalled that the General Assembly had previously taken a decision on that issue. It was acknowledged that special political missions were unique, but it was noted that their inclusion in the regular budget enhanced predictability and required better estimates. The view was expressed that these activities should continue to be included in the regular budget. It was also stated that consideration of this issue could be flexible. It was noted that the provision for special political missions in the outline for the biennium 2004-2005 was proposed at a level of approximately twice that approved for the current biennium. It was also observed that the circumstances of the past year had been exceptional. Concern was expressed regarding the proposed level of resources estimated in the outline for special political missions. It was stated that any provision for these activities should be realistic and transparent.

21. The view was expressed that several proposals in the outline suggested a return to an era of ever-increasing budgets, when budget decision-making was focused on how much to add to the last budget.

22. It was considered that sustained reform and continuous improvement could and would have a significant favourable impact on the resource requirements of the Organization.

23. Support was expressed for the reflection of the approximation of inflation rates on the proposals in the outline. It was also noted that exchange rates could not be reliably predicted at this stage for the time periods covered by the outline.

24. Support was expressed for the recommendation to set the size of the contingency fund at a level of 0.75 per cent for the biennium 2004-2005.

Conclusions and recommendations

25. **The Committee considered the outline, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/213, annex I, using as a framework the four elements listed in paragraph 1 of the report of the Secretary-General, namely:**

(a) Preliminary estimate of resources to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(b) Priorities, reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources.

26. **The Committee took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/57/85) and recommended that the General Assembly should give further consideration to all the aspects contained in the proposed programme budget outline, in the light of the discussions reported above and taking into account the following:**

(a) The preliminary estimates should be adequate for the full implementation of all mandated programmes and activities;

(b) The Committee noted that in September the Secretary-General would submit reform proposals to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session pertaining to the continued process of strengthening the Organization, and that any implications that the reform would have for the proposed programme budget outline would be addressed at the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly;

(c) The Committee recalled resolution 53/206, in which the General Assembly endorsed the proposal of the Secretary-General that provision should be made in the budget outline for expenditures for special political missions related to peace and security expected to be extended or approved in the course of the biennium;

(d) While noting that the Secretary-General would reflect, in his budget submission, additional cost-effectiveness measures and simplified procedures, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General's review of possible obsolete activities should remain within the context of relevant Regulations and

Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation;

(e) The Committee recommended approval of the priorities contained in paragraph 11 of the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for 2004-2005;

(f) The Committee recommended also that the size of the contingency fund should be 0.75 per cent of the budget outline total and reaffirmed resolution 41/213, in particular the provision requiring reprogramming of activities when the contingency fund is fully utilized.

B. Efficient and effective measures for management improvement

27. At its 18th and 19th meetings, on 24 and 25 June 2002, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on efficient and effective measures for management improvement (E/AC.51/2002/2). The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the report and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

28. It was noted that the report of the Secretary-General was comprehensive in scope and provided a useful overview of work in progress with regard to measures for management improvement, both within the United Nations Secretariat and across the common system of organizations. An illustrative sample of measures taken by organizations covered seven areas of management innovations: enhancement of monitoring capacity and performance measurement; leveraging technology; streamlining rules, processes and procedures; strengthening common services; improving human resources management; strengthening financial management; and enhancing accountability and delegation of authority. Specific efforts had been taken in the Department of Management of the United Nations Secretariat and in the High-level Committee on Management (HLCM) of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) to put in place mechanisms for cooperation, learning and sharing of experience. HLCM had a particular role to play in the development of a strategy for cooperation and coordination in management improvement measures, in aggregating and analysing information and in establishing good management practice.

29. It was also noted that management improvement measures were an integral part of the Secretary-General's initiatives for reform of the Organization. Productivity remained a central concern. Monitoring the impact of improvements, to ensure that change actually happened in a verifiable way, was another critical concern. Virtually all of the organizations of the United Nations common system were learning how to tie their administrative and management activities into the overall framework of a results-based approach.

30. Delegations expressed appreciation for the manner in which a broad array of management improvement initiatives had been presented against a background of change management in the organizations. It was necessary, however, to ensure that sound coordination mechanisms were in place to ensure that good ideas were widely disseminated and that duplication of effort was avoided. At the same time,

monitoring tools were needed to track progress in the different areas of work. The proposed progress and impact-reporting system being developed by the Management Policy Office of the Department of Management would be useful in that regard. A parallel mechanism was the productivity-knowledge gateway, which focused on assessing individual and team-based productivity measures.

31. Delegations supported rigorous efforts towards achieving an electronic United Nations. Many organizations had made a considerable investment in information and communications technology, and it was important that every effort be made to share best practices. The role of such technology was central to future management improvements. Some difficulties had been encountered in the efforts to more closely integrate information and communications technology platforms across organizations, but the HLCM network and the United Nations information and communications technology strategy were addressing those issues.

32. A number of delegations observed that future work on management improvement measures needed to focus on both their quantitative and qualitative impact. The view was expressed that the report had presented a positive picture without examining the shortfalls or negative aspects of improvement measures. The view was also expressed that the nature of the report was more quantitative than qualitative. While a considerable amount of work had been undertaken by the United Nations and the other organizations of the common system, specific efforts should continue towards developing more coherent approaches and a more detailed impact assessment of improvement measures. Delegations acknowledged the difficulty of pinning down real results, for example, the results of introducing new processes or technology. It was not sufficient to claim that management improvement measures were effective or efficient: the results of change had to be demonstrated by comparing the situation before and after specific projects were carried out. On the other hand, delegations expressed the view that there had been noticeable improvements in such areas as the streamlining of rules, the introduction of such procedures as the new Galaxy system for recruitment, placement, promotion and mobility, and the development of management indicators (the Key Item Management Reporting System). It would be useful to emphasize the linkage between management improvement measures and delegating authority to programme managers while holding them accountable for decisions. There again, monitoring would be crucial.

33. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of the Secretary-General to use the High-level Committee on Management of CEB to stimulate the exchange of experience and good management practice. Within the United Nations, the role of the Senior Management Group, the Steering Committee on Reform and Management and the Management Policy Committee were critical. The use of inter-agency networking and the development of the progress and impact reporting system were broadly supported: in future, emphasis would have to be placed on measuring actual improvement rather than on simply describing the intent of management improvement initiatives.

Conclusions and recommendations

34. **The Committee took note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on efficient and effective measures for management improvement (E/AC.51/2002/2). The Committee was of the view that a broad range of initiatives had been presented in a useful format. At the same time, there**

remained scope for more rigorous analysis of the specific impact of improvement measures and for analysis of the problems and challenges faced by the organizations of the system. The Committee welcomed the examples cited in the report in regard to the sharing of experience and good management practice.

35. **The Committee affirmed its support for the mechanisms for inter-agency cooperation and networking that had been placed under the aegis of the High-level Committee on Management of CEB. It also recommended that the work of the Management Policy Committee of the Department of Management should go forward with regard to the development of the progress and impact reporting system, both as a monitoring tool and as a means of assessing more rigorously the impact of management improvement measures. The Committee felt that the strategy proposed in the report for intensifying inter-agency knowledge-sharing and assessment of the results of management improvement measures should receive priority so that future reports would be more focused on impact analysis.**

C. Different methodologies that might be used to correct the geographical imbalance in hiring consultants

36. At its 19th meeting, on 25 June 2002, the Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General on progress in the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on different methodologies that might be used to correct the geographical imbalance in hiring consultants (E/AC.51/2002/3). The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the report.

Discussion

37. The view was expressed that it would have been preferable for the Secretariat to present not one but several options for discussion on this issue. Divergent views were expressed concerning the applicability of a geographical quota as a proper tool for achieving geographical balance for consultants and individual contractors.

38. The view was expressed that since it constituted a rather minor expense of the budget of the Organization, the search for a means to solve the problem of the imbalance in hiring consultants should not be a priority. Other views were expressed to the effect that, on the contrary, the issue was a matter of principle regardless of the costs involved.

39. It was observed that information on why certain Member States were not represented was not available.

40. The view was also expressed that there was some doubt about the results of the calculation as per the adopted methodologies, which identified some countries as overrepresented when they might not be so.

41. Divergent opinions were expressed on whether an in-depth multi-year study proposed by the Secretary-General should take place. The view was also expressed that a study was necessary but that it should be completed in a shorter period of time. It was noted that additional information should be provided, such as the ratio of postulants to posts, in order to allow a broader analysis of the context of the imbalance in hiring consultants.

42. The view was expressed that greater efforts should be made by the Secretariat to achieve geographical balance among consultants and individual contractors.

43. Delegations expressed the view that due regard should be given to merit in the hiring of consultants and contractors. The Secretariat assured the Committee that current practice and procedure would be maintained when giving consideration to correcting the geographical imbalance.

Conclusions and recommendations

44. The Committee took note of the note by the Secretary-General on progress in the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on different methodologies that might be used to correct the geographical imbalance in hiring consultants (E/AC.51/2002/3).

45. The Committee recommended that the Secretariat make greater efforts to ensure geographical balance among qualified consultants and individual contractors, and that the General Assembly further consider the matter at its fifty-seventh session in the context of the relevant item.

Chapter III
Programme questions

A. Programme planning

(Item 4 (a))

Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2000-2001

46. At its 5th and 6th meetings, on 11 and 12 June 2002, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2000-2001 (A/57/62).

47. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report of the Secretary-General and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of it.

Discussion

48. Appreciation was expressed for the report on programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2000-2001, which was considered to be a comprehensive, informative and useful reference document on the performance of the Secretariat. The quality of the report with regard to clarity and methodology was commended; the report more closely resembled what was wanted and enabled Member States to review each section easily. The usefulness of the report was considered to be due to its focus on numerical information and the comparative picture regarding programme execution. With the introduction of results-based budgeting, it was felt that future reports would include more analysis and qualitative tables.

49. The average implementation rate of 83 per cent of the programmed outputs achieved by the Secretariat was acknowledged as realistic and reasonable. The reporting modalities in the United Nations had been considerably improved with the use of the Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System, and it was deemed desirable to extend the system to evaluations.

50. It was noted with concern that not all programme managers accorded monitoring and reporting the required priority. Departments were encouraged to employ the programme monitoring information on a continuous basis throughout the biennium to aid and improve programme management.

51. It was also noted with concern that the lowest implementation rate was observed in programmes related to development, and that the report did not provide precise and correct information. Concern was also expressed that some activities that were not mandated in the medium-term plan were implemented.

52. Concerns were raised over the number and nature of the terminations reported. There had been some increase in the number compared with the previous biennium, and that trend should be closely watched so that the causes could be addressed. It was observed that many of the terminations were decided by the Secretariat and was understood that those decisions were adopted in accordance with the Regulations

and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8). It was accepted that activities could be carried forward to the next biennium if they were still relevant, but should then be given priority for completion in that biennium. It was stated that the qualitative evaluation of the Millennium Declaration was focused only on accomplishments, and that in the future there should be a more objective presentation dealing with the objectives and indicators of achievement in connection with the activities related to the Millennium Declaration.

53. It was recognized that the programme performance report for the current biennium would be more complex with the introduction of results-based budgeting, given that more emphasis would be on qualitative reporting. Support was expressed for the approach taken by the Office of Internal Oversight Services in conducting the next reporting exercise, and the need for training was emphasized in order to assist programme managers in fulfilling their reporting responsibilities.

54. With regard to the results-based budgeting format, there was still a need to refine the indicators of achievement and expected accomplishments and to strengthen the linkage between them. It was observed that some texts in the quantitative tables were lengthy and did not convey what had been accomplished. Attention should be paid to the correlation between the reported accomplishment realized and the indicators of achievement. Further improvement in the reporting format was anticipated.

55. The presentation of the conclusions drawn from the qualitative assessments by the Millennium Declaration theme was discussed. Several observations were made with regard to the differences in the implementation rates of individual programmes. It was noted that a number of the programmes with implementation rates of less than 80 per cent were those that affected developing countries, particularly those in Africa.

Conclusions and recommendations

56. **The Committee noted the implementation rate achieved during the biennium as well as the accomplishments realized and commended programme managers and staff for their initiative and resourcefulness in programme management in response to legislative mandates. In this regard, the Committee emphasized the need to respect all the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including that concerning delegation of authority.**

57. **The Committee recommended that future performance reports provide more detailed information in the event of a relatively low implementation rate.**

58. **The Committee noted the progress achieved in developing the modalities and the format of programme performance reporting and the efforts to strengthen the expertise and commitment of programme managers. It urged all programme managers, without exception, to fulfil their responsibilities with respect to self-evaluation and monitoring. It suggested that consideration be given to including in managers' performance appraisals a standard personal objective to ensure full and efficient compliance with those requirements and to develop their use as a management and accountability tool.**

59. The Committee emphasized that programme monitoring should be continuous and comprehensive and that it should lead to the appropriate legislative and management adjustments to ensure full implementation of all mandated programmes in accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

60. The Committee recommended that, in response to General Assembly resolution 53/207 of 18 December 1998, the qualitative evaluation be improved in a comprehensive manner in terms of objectives, strategies, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, taking into account Assembly resolution 55/231 of 23 December 2000.

61. The Committee noted the view expressed in paragraph 70 of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2000-2001 that considerable effort was still required to muster sufficient expertise in translating programmatic goals into clear and comprehensive indicators of expected accomplishments, achievement and accomplishments realized, and that the expertise of United Nations staff should be solid enough to develop strong linkages between expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and the accomplishments reported.

B. Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

(Item 4 (b))

Programme 1
Political affairs

62. At its 9th meeting, on 17 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. It had before it proposals in respect of programme 1, "Political affairs" (A/57/6 (Prog. 1) and Corr.1).

63. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 1 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

64. Support was expressed for the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan in respect of programme 1, as they were in general, in conformity with legislative mandates.

65. The view was also expressed that the medium-term plan formed the basis for preparing the biennial programme budgets and that the programme budgets should thus be based on the medium-term plan, and not the reverse.

66. It was recognized that the Department of Political Affairs was the lead department for implementation of a number of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, including, inter alia, the ones on counter-terrorism, which entailed additional tasks for the Department. It was underscored that other parts of

the Secretariat, such as the Office of Legal Affairs, the Department for Disarmament Affairs and other members of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security, should also be fully involved, and their respective roles should be clearly defined. It was pointed out that coordination among those departments was of paramount importance to ensure coherence and to avoid duplication of activities.

67. Support was expressed for the efforts of the African people in achieving peace and development in the African continent. The view was expressed that the Organization should play a greater role in efforts for achieving peace and development in Africa.

68. The view was expressed that mandates for the holding of elections were the prerogative of the General Assembly and not of the Security Council. Concerning the indicators of achievement for subprogramme 2, "Electoral assistance", concern was expressed that transparency in the electoral processes of Member States requesting assistance for the conduct of elections was difficult to measure, and could be subjected to value judgement.

69. It was observed that while there were several expert panels and monitoring groups, established by the Security Council, not all of them were mentioned in the proposed revisions.

70. In discussing the proposed revisions under subprogramme 4, "Decolonization", it was stated that the expected accomplishments and the indicators of achievement shown in the existing medium-term plan were more complete and comprehensive than the proposed revisions.

Conclusions and recommendations

71. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 1, Political affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, subject to the following modifications:**

Paragraph 1.4

Replace the paragraph with the following:

"In its capacity as the lead department on the subject of terrorism, the Department of Political Affairs will work with the Centre for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and with other relevant departments within the Secretariat in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001)".

Paragraph 1.12

Retain the original wording of paragraph 1.11 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Paragraph 1.15

In the third sentence, delete the words "to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its work, as well as".

Paragraph 1.15

Delete the words "on Afghanistan".

Paragraph 1.15

Replace the Security Council resolution number "1363 (2001)" with the number "1419 (2002)".

Paragraph 1.23

Retain the original wording of paragraph 1.22 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Paragraph 1.24

Retain the original wording of paragraph 1.23 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Paragraph 1.25

Retain the original wording of paragraph 1.24 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Paragraph 1.29

Replace the paragraph with the following:

> **"An indicator of achievement would be an increase in the level of dialogue, engagement and support from the relevant international community actors for the subprogramme's objectives".**

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 1, Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts

General Assembly resolutions

Add resolution 56/88 on measures to eliminate international terrorism.

Security Council resolutions

Add resolution 1373 (2001) on measures to eliminate international terrorism.

Subprogramme 4, Decolonization

General Assembly decision

Add decision 56/410 on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

72. **The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly, at its fifty-seventh session, further consider proposals on paragraph 1.13 of the programme.**

73. **The Committee further recommended that the Secretary-General provide further information to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the applicability of regulation 4.13 and rule 104.8 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the**

Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation with regard to the revisions to the list of legislative mandates in programme 1.

Programme 2
Disarmament

74. At its 9th meeting, on 17 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. It had before it proposals in respect of programme 2, Disarmament (A/57/6 (Prog. 2)).

75. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 2 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

76. Support was expressed for the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan under programme 2, which reflected action taken by the General Assembly during its fifty-sixth session in its resolutions 56/24 T on multilateral cooperation in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and global efforts against terrorism and 56/24 V on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, as well as changes in the programme narrative, in line with General Assembly resolution 56/253.

77. Satisfaction was expressed with the new indicator of achievement proposed under subprogramme 2, Weapons of mass destruction, contained in paragraph 2.17 (d). The view was expressed that that indicator of achievement could be easily measured and that it was appropriate to include it under the subprogramme. Queries were raised about the additional expected accomplishments and indicators of achievements proposed and about the method of measurement to quantify satisfaction by States Parties. The view was also expressed that the proposed revisions under programme 2 should be consistent with all the provisions of General Assembly resolutions 56/24 T and 56/24 V.

Conclusions and recommendations

78. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 2, Disarmament, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, subject to the following modifications:

Paragraph 2.16 (a)

Retain the original wording of paragraph 2.16 (a) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Paragraphs 2.19 (a), 2.19 (b) and 2.23 (d)

In the French version, include the words "small arms" before the words "light weapons" in every instance where the latter words appear.

Paragraph 2.14 (d)

Replace the subparagraph with the following to reflect the relevant provision of General Assembly resolution 56/24 T:

"Assist Member States, at their request, in their efforts in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation in order to help maintain international peace and security and to contribute to global efforts against terrorism".

Paragraph 2.16 (c)

Replace the subparagraph with the following to reflect the relevant provision of General Assembly resolution 56/24 T:

"Enhanced multilateral cooperation in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, within existing mandates, as a contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security and the global efforts against terrorism".

Paragraph 2.17 (a)

Delete the last sentence, reading "This would include sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference and ad hoc meetings".

Paragraph 2.17 (d)

Replace the subparagraph with the following to reflect the relevant provision of General Assembly resolution 56/24 T:

"Greater awareness of States of the need for progress in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation in order to help maintain international peace and security and to contribute to global efforts against terrorism".

Paragraph 2.23 (a)

Replace the words "Further development" with the words "Improved functioning".

Paragraph 2.23 (d)

Delete the words "conventional disarmament initiatives, including".

Programme 3
Peacekeeping operations

79. At its 9th meeting, on 17 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. It had before it proposals in respect of programme 3, Peacekeeping operations (A/57/6 (Prog. 3)).

80. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 3 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

81. General support was expressed for the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan under programme 3 since the proposed revisions conformed to legislative mandates. The establishment of mine action coordination as a separate subprogramme was welcomed. It was noted that the proposed indicators of achievement were in general relevant and quantifiable. Queries were raised, however, on some revisions of expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement made on the basis of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

82. Reference was made to the expected accomplishments and indicator of achievement related to gender issues in paragraphs 3.7 and 3.8 of subprogramme 1, Operations. Their placement under that subprogramme was questioned since gender mainstreaming was a cross-cutting issue and should have been addressed either in the overall orientation or in the strategy of the programme.

83. The commitment of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to implement its programme of work was welcomed. Given the strengthening of the capacity of the Department to fulfil its mandate, it was pointed out that more results would be expected. It was also emphasized that, in strengthening the capacity of the Department, due regard should be given to geographical balance.

84. Queries were raised about the degree of completion of missions' start-up kits and on measures to be taken to increase the number of Member States contributing to the standby arrangements, referred to in paragraphs 3.12 and 3.17, respectively.

Conclusions and recommendations

85. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 3, Peacekeeping operations, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, subject to the following modifications:**

Paragraph 3.3

After the last sentence, insert a new sentence reading "Special attention will also be given to an increased understanding and recognition of gender issues and geographical balance in peacekeeping operations".

Paragraph 3.7

Delete the words "and an increased understanding and recognition of gender issues in peacekeeping operations" and delete the subsequent explanation provided in italic type within square brackets.

Paragraph 3.8

Delete the words "and the extent to which gender issues are identified and addressed in peacekeeping missions".

Paragraph 3.9

After the words "as well as other activities", insert the words "including training".

Paragraph 3.11

Replace the words "increased operational readiness through better planning and deployment" with the words "improved and increased operational readiness through effective, expeditious and coordinated planning and deployment".

Paragraph 3.12

- **After the words "Indicators of achievement would include", insert the words "a reduction in the time lag between the adoption of resolutions and the deployment of civilian personnel and equipment to field missions".**
- **Replace the words "mission start-up kits" with the words "strategic deployment stocks modules".**

Paragraph 3.16

After the words "Expected accomplishments would include", insert the words "rapid response in the deployment and" before the words "the effective establishment of trained military and civilian police components".

Programme 5
Legal affairs

86. At its 9th meeting, on 17 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. It had before it proposals in respect of programme 5, Legal affairs (A/57/6 (Prog. 5)).

87. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 5 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

88. Satisfaction was expressed with the services rendered by the Office of Legal Affairs to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. Queries were raised on the revisions related to subprogramme 4, Law of the sea and ocean affairs. The view was expressed that General Assembly resolutions 56/12 on oceans and the law of the sea and 56/13 on the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks did not contain specific mandates to warrant the revisions proposed under paragraphs 5.27 and 5.28. It was emphasized that the services and assistance to be given to States Parties to the Convention should be limited to those States which had requested assistance.

89. Clarification was sought concerning the ongoing substantive support provided to the Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court as indicated in paragraph 5.21 of subprogramme 3, Progressive development and codification of international law, in the light of the recent ratification of the statute by the requisite number of States Parties.

90. Reference was made to paragraph 66 of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (E/AC.51/2002/5) regarding the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law under subprogramme 5, Progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade, which, inter alia, reported that with the exception of the addition of a P-4 post in 2001, staff resources had remained at the 1968 level. In the light of that observation, the revisions contained in paragraph 5.35 for the strengthening of the secretariat of the Commission, in view of its increased workload, were welcomed. The view was expressed that the strengthening could be effected by utilizing existing resources. However, given the nature of the work of various organizational units in the Office of Legal Affairs, doubts were expressed whether the strengthening could be achieved within existing resources.

91. Clarification was sought concerning the impact of the deleted mandates previously referenced under subprogramme 3.

Conclusions and recommendations

92. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 5, Legal affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, subject to the following modifications:**

Paragraph 5.12

Retain the original wording of paragraph 5.12 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Paragraph 5.20

Retain the original wording of paragraph 5.20 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Paragraph 5.21

In the second sentence, delete the words "and the Preparatory Commission for the International Criminal Court", and in the subsequent explanation of change provided in italic type in square brackets, delete the reference to General Assembly resolution 56/85.

Paragraph 5.27

Retain the original wording of paragraph 5.27 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Paragraph 5.28

- **In the third sentence, before the words "in particular developing States", insert the words "at their request".**
- **In the last sentence, after the words "consultations with the States parties will be carried out", insert the words "in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 56/13" and delete the rest of the sentence.**

Paragraph 5.29

At the end of the last sentence, add a new sentence reading "Such action will be assisted by more effective collaboration and coordination between the relevant parts of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations as a whole, and improved coordination at the inter-agency level, as requested in General Assembly resolution 56/12, paragraph 49".

Paragraph 5.35

Replace the second sentence with the following: "In order to enable the Branch to carry out the work programme of the Commission, it is necessary to implement the request by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/79".

Programme 7
Economic and social affairs

93. At its 10th meeting, on 18 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 7)).

94. Representatives of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed revisions and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the revisions.

Discussion

95. General support was expressed for the proposed revisions.

96. Appreciation was expressed for the inclusion of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the report of the Secretary-General on the road map towards the implementation of the Declaration as new mandates, for references to the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Second World Assembly on Ageing and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and for references to other conferences that would provide further legislative authority for the programme.

97. The view was expressed that some of the narratives proposed for deletion, particularly in paragraphs 7.1 and 7.3, should be retained. It was considered that a reference to the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries should have been included under paragraph 7.1.

98. The inclusion in the revisions to the programme of the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement approved by the General Assembly under section 9 of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 was questioned on the grounds that most of them were designed to evaluate Member States' performance instead of that of the Secretariat.

99. The view was expressed that in certain instances there was a missing link between the expected accomplishments and the indicators of achievement. It was further considered that a number of indicators of achievement were of a purely quantitative nature and needed to be reformulated in order to emphasize the qualitative nature of the change to be measured.

100. Support was expressed for the proposed revised expected accomplishment under paragraph 7.13 (c), regarding the establishment of an expanded network for information exchange and communication with Governments and civil society. The view was expressed that the indicator of achievement under paragraph 7.14 (g) should make reference to technical services provided in implementation of the Beijing Declaration.

101. It was stated that the implementation of centralized and systematized databases as required by the report of the Committee of the Whole of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly would contribute to the accomplishment of the goals of subprogramme 2, avoiding unnecessary duplication and reaching important sectors of the population.

102. It was proposed to retain the following narrative slated for deletion:

(a) Paragraph 7.33 (a), "of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and economies in transition to mobilize financial resources for development by advancing the outcomes of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the High-level International Intergovernmental Event on Financing for Development;

(b) Paragraph 7.33 (d), "thus, the subprogramme would contribute to the formulation of new goals and strategies for long-term development";

(c) Paragraph 7.34, "a constructive dialogue on macroeconomic policy in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council through systematic surveys of the global economy and the provision of substantive support to the policy processes";

(d) Paragraph 7.35, "a percentage increase in the number of consensus decisions reached and action taken by the United Nations, the international community in general and Governments on measures to accelerate growth and development in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including implementation of national, regional and international efforts to make the global financial system more responsive to the challenges of development that emanate from the high-level event on financing for development and the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries".

103. It was also proposed that a number of the revised expected accomplishments contained in paragraph 7.34 and indicators of achievement contained in paragraph 7.35 be reviewed because their current wording did not convey the idea of progress made.

104. The establishment of a new subprogramme 9, Sustainable forest development, was welcomed. Doubts were expressed whether the number of high-level ministerial segment meetings, including policy dialogues cited as an indicator of achievement under paragraph 7.43 (c), could be considered as an adequate measure of the accomplishments of the subprogramme. The view was expressed that references to the question of establishing an effective financing mechanism and to the multi-year programme of work should have been included under expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement under paragraphs 7.42 and 7.43, respectively.

105. Support was expressed for the fact that the responsibility for the implementation of subprogramme 9 remained with the secretariat of the United

Nations Forum on Forests. It was stressed that no additional tasks should be incorporated into the programme of work adopted by the Forum.

106. The view was expressed that the agreed outcome of the recent International Conference on Financing for Development required sustained follow-up on the part of the United Nations system. It was considered that such follow-up could be accomplished by establishing a separate new subprogramme under programme 7.

Conclusions and recommendations

107. **The Committee recommended that, following the endorsement of the Monterrey Consensus by the General Assembly, as adopted by the International Conference on Financing for Development on 22 March 2002, the Secretary-General prepare a proposal for a new subprogramme on financing for development under programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the medium-term plan for 2002-2005, for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.**

108. **The Committee recommended that, in accordance with the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in August 2002, the Secretary-General submit revisions to relevant subprogrammes for the consideration of and action by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.**

109. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General in programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, with the following modifications:**

Paragraph 7.1

- **Retain the original wording of the second sentence of paragraph 7.1 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.**
- **In the third sentence, after the words "United Nations to", insert the word "meeting", and, after the words "everywhere and to" insert the word "effectively".**
- **In the fifth sentence, after the word "consensus", insert the words "strengthening partnerships of Governments of the North and South on the one hand and between major groups or relevant stakeholders on the other".**
- **In the sixth sentence, replace the words "those three areas" with the words "those four areas".**

Paragraph 7.2

- **Towards the end of the first sentence, before the words "the Millennium Declaration (2000)", insert the words "the special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS (2001) and the special session of the General Assembly on children (2002)".**

– At the end of the first sentence, after the words "the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit (2001)", add the words "and the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries".

– Replace the last sentence with the following: "In addition, it is expected that the decisions of the General Assembly on the outcome of the Monterrey Consensus, adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development, the International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing, and the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in 2002, will provide further legislative authority to the programme".

Paragraph 7.3

– Retain the original wording of the second sentence of paragraph 7.3 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1, up to the word "development", and delete the words "and the integrated follow-up to global conferences".

– Revise the new text of paragraph 7.3, which reads "in particular the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences" to read "in particular the implementation and follow-up of the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields".

Paragraph 7.6 (b)

– After the words "United Nations", insert the words "in conformity with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council".

– Replace the words "diverse stakeholders" with the words "diverse institutional stakeholders".

– Delete the words "and by adapting the Council's working methods to new requirements".

Paragraph 7.7 (d)

– After the word "Assembly", insert the words "in accordance with its resolution 56/76".

– After the word "participation", insert the words "in accordance with the established rules of procedure and practices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council with respect to the representation".

– Replace the word "universities" with the word "academia".

Paragraph 7.7 (f)

Replace paragraph 7.7 (f) with text similar to paragraph 21 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 55/285, as follows: "Making more use of the regular consultations provided for in paragraph 43 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 51/241, including between the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General will provide those meetings with

secretarial support, as appropriate, including written information to Member States through the chairmen of the regional groups".

Paragraph 7.8

Retain expected accomplishments (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) as approved in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Paragraph 7.9 (a)

Replace the words "and relevant issues" with the words "concerning economic and social development issues".

Paragraph 7.9 (b)

Replace paragraph 7.9 (b) with the following: "Report by Member States that dialogues, round-table discussions and panels are informative and relevant and contribute to intergovernmental deliberations, which should be disseminated, including through the Internet".

Paragraph 7.9 (c)

At the end of paragraph 7.9 (c), add the words "as appropriate".

Paragraph 7.9 (d)

Revise paragraph 7.9 (d) to read "Report by Member States that inputs from concerned parts of the Organization and the system as a whole are relevant, coordinated and timely".

Paragraph 7.9 (f)

Delete the words "and others".

Paragraph 7.9 (g)

Revise paragraph 7.9 (g) to read "Feedback from Member States shows that the triennial review of operational activities for development and related activities are relevant".

Paragraph 7.10

Replace the words "the Security Council resolution on women, peace and security" with the words "the relevant resolutions of the principal organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council".

Paragraph 7.13 (b)

Replace paragraph 7.13 (b) with the following: "Enhanced capacity to provide effective gender advisory services that assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, at their request, in implementing the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, to Member States, and enhanced involvement of all

other actors to effectively implement the recommendations contained in the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, as well as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and subsequent intergovernmental mandates, and the pertinent aspects of the Millennium Declaration".

Paragraph 7.13 (f)

Replace paragraph 7.13 (f) with the following: "Enhanced capacity of Member States and enhanced involvement of all other actors to effectively implement the recommendations contained in the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly".

Paragraph 7.14 (a)

Retain the original wording of paragraph 7.14 (a) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Paragraph 7.14 (c)

Replace the words "Satisfaction expressed by States parties with regard to" with the words "Reports by Member States that", and at the end of the subparagraph, add the words "are useful".

Paragraph 7.14 (g)

- **Replace the words "The satisfaction of" with the words "Reports by".**
- **Replace the words "and the Millennium Declaration" with the words "and the relevant programmes and platforms for action adopted by the General Assembly and international conferences, including the Millennium Declaration".**

Paragraph 7.15

In the third sentence, after the words "older persons", add the words "including the Madrid Declaration and the International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002".

Paragraph 7.16 (a)

Replace the words "proportion of the world's people" with the words "1990 proportion of the world's people".

Paragraph 7.17 (a)

After the words "the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development", insert the words "the International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002".

Paragraph 7.17 (b)

Replace paragraph 7.17 (b) with the following: "Improved ability of Member States, through the provision of effective assistance, to pursue the goal

of eradicating poverty through decisive national action and international cooperation".

Paragraph 7.17 (e)

Revise the beginning of the new text in paragraph 7.17 (e) to read "Increased awareness of national Governments and the international community to realize through their strengthened capacity the International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002", and retain the rest of the new text.

Paragraph 7.18 (b)

- **Retain the original wording of subparagraph 7.18 (b) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.**
- **Retain new text and renumber accordingly.**

Paragraph 7.33 (a) (old)

Retain the original wording of paragraph 7.33 (a) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1, and replace the words "High-level International Intergovernmental Event on Financing for Development, to be held in 2001" with the words "International Conference on Financing for Development, held in 2002".

Paragraph 7.33 (a) (new)

Revise new paragraph 7.33 (a) to read "Supporting efforts to achieve good governance within each country, good governance at the international level and transparency in the financial and monetary systems, and to mobilize financial resources for development as called for in the Millennium Declaration".

Paragraph 7.33 (b)

- **Retain the original wording of paragraph 7.33 (b) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1, and renumber accordingly.**
- **Revise new paragraph 7.33 (b) to read "Enhancing the efforts to implement the outcomes of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the International Conference on Financing for Development, in particular in the areas of domestic resource mobilization, official development assistance, foreign direct investment, including international private capital flows, trade, the effective use of public private partnerships, the international financial system and the financial opportunities and challenges presented by the increased role of the private sector in economic activity and the globalization of financial markets".**

Paragraph 7.33 (d)

Retain the original wording of subparagraph 7.33 (d) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Paragraph 7.33 (e)

Replace paragraph 7.33 (e) with the following: "Fostering closer collaboration and understanding among the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton Woods institutions, as called for in the Millennium Declaration".

Paragraph 7.34

Retain the original wording of paragraph 7.34 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Paragraph 7.34 (a)

At the end of the subparagraph, add the following: "inter alia, to address the special needs of the least developed countries".

Paragraph 7.34 (b)

Replace paragraph 7.34 (b) with the following: "To hold an exchange of views in order to facilitate enhanced understanding in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and the countries with economies in transition, of the actions necessary, including greater assistance to mobilize and allocate, in an efficient and gender-sensitive manner, domestic financial resources for development".

Paragraph 7.34 (c)

After the words "financial crises", insert the words "and appropriate mechanisms to address, in a sustainable manner, the problems derived from difficulties to pay foreign debt".

Paragraph 7.35

Retain the original wording of paragraph 7.35 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Subprogramme 9

Change the title of subprogramme 9 to read "Sustainable forest management".

Paragraph 7.42 (d)

Replace the words "reporting by Governments" with the words "voluntary reporting by Governments".

Paragraph 7.43 (c)

Replace the words "The number of" with the words "The effectiveness of".

Paragraph 7.43 (d)

Replace the word "mechanism" with the word "approach".

Paragraph 7.43 (e) (new)

Add a new subparagraph 7.43 (e) to read "The implementation of the multi-year programme of work as well as the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests".

Legislative mandates

Overall programme

Add General Assembly resolution 55/279 (Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010).

Subprogramme 3

Add General Assembly resolution 52/194 (Role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty).

Subprogramme 7

Add reference to General Assembly resolution 56/207 (Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), including the proposal to establish a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication).

Subprogramme 9

Add Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35 (Report on the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests).

Add Economic and Social Council decision 2001/293 (Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its first session and provisional agenda for its second session).

Programme 8
Africa: New Agenda for Development

110. At its 10th meeting, on 18 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 8, Africa: New Agenda for Development, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 8)).

111. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed revisions and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of them.

Discussion

112. Strong support was expressed for the high priority that the United Nations continued to give to the development of Africa, especially in the light of the many challenges faced by the region.

113. It was emphasized, however, that in order to address the challenges effectively the activities relating to Africa contained in various programmes should be implemented so as to produce a coherent and coordinated United Nations response

to the development of Africa. That was important for enhancing the impact and sustainability of the work of the United Nations in Africa.

114. It was stated that the specific General Assembly resolution on the zone of peace and cooperation of the South Atlantic (resolution 56/7) could have been added to the legislative mandates because the zone could be regarded as a useful tool to promote development and cooperation among the countries of the southern hemisphere.

115. Attention was drawn to the fact that the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) would be conducted during the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly. It was noted that programme 8 had been created in response to the adoption of UN-NADAF, and as such, its orientation, structure and content would need to be adapted to reflect the outcome of the final review and appraisal.

116. In the light of the above, questions were raised concerning the desirability of revising the programme at this stage since it would need to be revised after the final review and appraisal of UN-NADAF.

Conclusions and recommendations

117. **The Committee noted the proposed revisions to programme 8 and recommended that, after the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s that was expected to be carried out during the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General submit a revised programme to reflect the outcomes of the review.**

Legislative mandates

118. **Under "General Assembly resolutions", the Committee recommended the following addition:**

> **"56/177 Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly."**

Programme 9
Trade and development

119. At its 11th meeting, on 18 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 9, Trade and development, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 9)).

120. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed revisions and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of them.

Discussion

121. Support for the programme of work and appreciation for the activities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in support of the least developed countries were expressed. The view was expressed that the proposed revisions were fully in accordance with the Bangkok Declaration and the provisions

of General Assembly resolution 56/227. However, questions were raised regarding the wording of the last sentence of the overall orientation (para. 9.1), and it was mentioned that other internationally agreed goals should have been included other than those of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. Concern was also expressed that the proposed revisions did not define more explicitly the responsibilities of UNCTAD as a result of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, as well as the coordination with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

122. Support was expressed to the work of UNCTAD, in particular in relation to the provision of technical assistance to developing countries, in order to support their integration into the world economy and to help them in addressing the problems associated with the globalization process.

123. The view was expressed that the reference to official development assistance in paragraph 9.1 should be deleted because UNCTAD had no mandate in that field.

124. Questions were raised regarding the rationale for the proposal to delete the phrase "contribution to the graduation of least developed countries" in paragraph 9.28 since the graduation from the category of least developed countries should be the ultimate objective to be achieved. It was suggested that that proposal be reviewed.

125. It was also suggested that the strategy section be reviewed in order to be more general and to refer to the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action in its entirety. The view was expressed that the references to "relevant outcomes" of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (paras. 9.28 and 9.29) and to "relevant parts of the outcomes" (para. 9.30) were not appropriate since the programme should be implemented as a whole and not partially.

126. The view was expressed that the document could be improved by mentioning a closer coordination and cooperation with other bodies working with international trade, including the World Trade Organization, and referring to the outcomes of the Doha and Monterrey conferences.

127. The Secretariat was asked about the changes that had arisen since the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and their implications for the functions of UNCTAD and the coordination of work with the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Conclusions and recommendations

128. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 9, Trade and development, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, with the following modifications:**

Paragraph 9.1

– **In the third sentence, delete the words "the relevant aspects of" before the words "the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries";**

– **At the end of the third sentence, add the words "and the outcome of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (Doha, 2001) and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 2002), as endorsed by the General Assembly";**

– **Replace the last sentence with the following sentence: "Through the implementation of the Bangkok Plan of Action, the United Nations Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2) and the follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit (General Assembly resolution 56/95), the Brussels Programme of Action and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, as endorsed by the General Assembly, UNCTAD would contribute to the attainment of internationally agreed goals, particularly in relation to trade, investment, debt and resource mobilization, including official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other private financial flows.";**

– **Add the following sentence after the last sentence: "The programme would enhance its operational capacities in the activities of UNCTAD aimed at supporting recipient countries, especially developing countries, and in particular the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States".**

Paragraph 9.3

Add a final sentence reading: "Supporting developing countries through the pursuit of the objectives of UNCTAD in the current and forthcoming negotiations in the World Trade Organization is a particular priority during the period of this medium-term plan".

Paragraph 9.4

Delete the third sentence ("The strategy to be followed takes into account the emphasis by Member States at the tenth session of UNCTAD on the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the focal point for the United Nations system for least developed country issues.").

Paragraph 9.6

In the second sentence, replace the words "the focal role of UNCTAD with regard to work concerning" with the words "UNCTAD's work on".

Paragraph 9.15

Delete the indicators and substitute the text used for indicators in other subprogrammes:

> **"Indicators of achievement would include: (a) the timeliness, usefulness, degree of implementation and quality of the subprogramme's research and analysis programme, as measured by readership and other surveys; (b) the views of Member States on the practical value and impact on the development prospects of developing countries of policy recommendations, as expressed in the conclusions of the regular review of the work**

programmes undertaken by intergovernmental bodies; and (c) the degree of implementation, effectiveness and impact of technical cooperation activities, as assessed by indicators contained in the relevant project documents."

Paragraph 9.21

In the second sentence, after the words "WTO itself", add the words "in particular the Doha work programme".

Paragraph 9.28

- **Delete the word "relevant" before the words "outcomes of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries";**
- **The phrase at the end of the paragraph should be expanded to read as follows: "and to contribute to the eventual graduation of the least developed countries by meeting objective criteria as agreed intergovernmentally".**

Paragraph 9.29

- **In subparagraph (i), insert the words "and competence" after the word "expertise";**
- **In subparagraph (iv), delete the words "the relevant" before the words "aspects of the Barbados Programme of Action".**

Paragraph 9.30

In the first sentence, delete the words "the relevant parts of the".

Legislative mandates

Add the following entry:

"56/198 — Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States"

Programme 10
Environment

129. At its 12th meeting, on 19 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 10, "Environment", of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 10)).

130. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed revisions and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of these revisions.

Discussion

131. Appreciation was expressed for the proposed revisions to programme 10, in particular for the inclusion of references to the Millennium Declaration, the

Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. It was emphasized that the strategy of the programme should cover all the elements relating to the United Nations Environment Programme contained in General Assembly resolution 55/2, "United Nations Millennium Declaration", and resolution 56/95, "Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit".

132. Concern was expressed about the proposed deletion of the reference to water in paragraph 10.21 (b) of the proposed revisions and it was pointed out that explicit reference should continue to be made to it, considering the importance of this natural element.

133. It was stated that the revisions to the medium-term plan should be consistent primarily with the actual medium-term plan rather than with the results-based budgeting narrative approved in the programme budget for the 2002-2003 biennium. It was also recalled that General Assembly resolution 55/231 stipulated that expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement should be used to measure achievements of the Organization and not those of individual Member States.

134. The view was expressed that further revisions would be necessary following the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in August 2002.

135. It was stated that the perverse incentives over the environment, such as agricultural subsidies, must be avoided. The view was also expressed that environmental criteria should not be used as trade barriers.

136. The Global Reporting Initiative was commended as a voluntary initiative on natural resources.

137. It was suggested that the following words be inserted at the end of the last sentence in paragraph 10.3: "as well as the outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries".

Conclusions and recommendations

138. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 10, Environment, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, with the following modifications:**

Paragraph 10.3

In the last sentence, replace the word "UNEP" with the words "the mandates of UNEP".

Paragraph 10.3 (c)

At the end of paragraph 10.3 (c), insert the words "paying full attention to the gender dimension".

Paragraph 10.20 (a)

Replace the words "particularly energy and water" with the words "including energy, water and biodiversity".

Paragraph 10.20 (c)

- **Add the words "the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes" after the words "Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants".**
- **Delete the words "and so on".**

Paragraph 10.20 (d)

Replace the words "the effective and integrated implementation" with the words "the effective and coordinated implementation".

Paragraph 10.20 (i)

Replace paragraph 10.20 (i) with the following: "promoting cooperation between UNEP, UNCTAD and WTO within their mandates".

Paragraph 10.21 (a)

Replace paragraph 10.21 (a) with the following: "the enhanced capacity of countries, particularly developing countries, with the assistance of UNEP, to assess, to have access to and to adopt affordable environmentally sound technologies".

Paragraph 10.21 (b)

- **Retain the original wording of paragraph 10.21 (b) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.**
- **Delete the new text for paragraph 10.21 (b).**

Paragraph 10.21 (c)

- **Retain the original wording of paragraph 10.21 (c) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1, as follows: "reduced pollution and risks for human beings and their environments", and renumber as new paragraph 10.21 (g).**
- **Delete the words "and their environmental and social performance, including the gender dimension".**

Paragraph 10.21 (d)

- **Retain the original wording of paragraph 10.21 (d) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1, as follows: "identification of means of minimizing the adverse environmental impacts of economic policy, especially trade liberalization and investment policies".**
- **Delete the new text of paragraph 10.21 (d).**

Paragraph 10.21 (e)

Replace paragraph 10.21 (e) with the following: "continuing efforts and concrete initiatives to encourage decision makers at the national, regional and local levels to address the economic, environmental and social aspects of sustainable development".

Paragraph 10.21 (h)

Insert a new paragraph 10.21 (h), to read "trade and investment policies supportive of sustainable development".

Paragraph 10.22 (b)

Revise paragraph 10.22 (b) to read "the number of countries in which renewable energy, advanced fossil fuel technologies and energy efficiency, as appropriate, are introduced and used as elements of national energy policies and strategies".

Paragraph 10.22 (c)

Replace paragraph 10.22 (c) with the following: "the number of companies voluntarily using relevant guidelines, including the use of the Global Reporting Initiative Guidelines to report on their use of natural resources".

Paragraph 10.22 (d)

- **Retain the original wording of paragraph 10.22 (d) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1, as follows: "the number of countries and industries commencing or strengthening programmes on awareness of and preparedness for emergencies at the local level or the equivalent and the number of companies adopting environmental management systems".**
- **Delete new text of paragraph 10.22 (d).**

Paragraph 10.22 (e)

- **Retain the original wording of paragraph 10.22 (e) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1, as follows: "the number of environmentally responsible investment patterns employed by the private sector and the development and use of environmental procedures and practices".**
- **Delete the new text in paragraph 10.22 (e).**

Paragraph 10.22 (f)

Replace paragraph 10.22 (f) with the following: "the number of countries, particularly developing countries, with the enhanced capacity to assess, to have access to and to adopt affordable environmentally sound technologies as a result of UNEP assistance".

Paragraph 10.22 (g)

Revise paragraph 10.22 (g) to read "the number of signatures/ratifications relevant to multilateral environmental agreements".

Programme 11
Human settlements

139. At its 13th meeting, on 19 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 11, "Human settlements", of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 11)).

140. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed revisions to programme 11 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of these revisions.

Discussion

141. Good support was expressed for the proposed revisions to the programme.

142. Explanations were sought as to how the activities carried out by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to implement the two global campaigns referred to in paragraph 11.6 of the proposed revisions (the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign on Urban Governance) related to the activities carried out by Governments. It was suggested that this relationship be spelled out in the narrative of the programme. It was further stated that the strategy in paragraph 11.6 (b) could be revised to include indicators for capacity-building. The view was also expressed that the indicators of achievement in paragraph 11.8 (a) could be formulated more specifically to include elements such as the social, legal and cultural orientation of Member States.

143. The view was also expressed that the wording of the objective in paragraph 11.15 should be reformulated so as to clarify that the main responsibility for implementing the principles and honouring the commitments of the Habitat Agenda rested with national Governments. It was suggested that the relationship between UN-Habitat and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS should be elaborated further.

144. The view was expressed that international resources were an important source for financing shelter and human settlements and should therefore be mentioned in paragraph 11.20. It was felt that more precise indicators of achievement would need to be developed in order to assess the impact and efficiency of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in providing financial resources for developing shelter and sustainable human settlements.

145. Queries were raised regarding the division of tasks between subprogrammes 1 and 3.

Conclusions and recommendations

146. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 11, Human settlements, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, with the following modifications:**

Paragraph 11.1

In the third sentence, retain the words "the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), in particular the Habitat Agenda".

Paragraph 11.2

At the end of the paragraph, add the following: "Through technical cooperation, UN-Habitat will support developing countries in achieving the goals of adequate shelter for all and the development of sustainable human settlements".

Paragraph 11.3

In the second sentence, replace the words "in coordination with the programmes of, among others," with the words "in coordination with the following programmes and agencies within their respective mandates:".

Paragraph 11.4

At the beginning of the last sentence, insert the words "Adequate resources as well as".

Paragraph 11.6

- **In the third sentence, after the words "organizational capacity-building", insert the words "resource mobilization".**
- **In the fourth sentence, replace the words "norms of secure tenure" with the words "norms of secure and legal tenure".**

Paragraph 11.7

Revise paragraph 11.7 to read:

"The number of countries assisted by UN-Habitat, upon request:

(a) To improve tenurial rights;

(b) To enhance higher quality housing for the poor, more reliable urban infrastructure and services, especially clean water, sanitation, waste management and public transport, as well as improved city environments and safer cities;

(c) To improve governance, including decentralization, social integration, inclusiveness, community participation, partnership, transparency, accountability, efficiency and effective local leadership, within the overall context of the Habitat Agenda goal of sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world. *[part of the text is derived from old paras. 11.7 and 11.12; the remainder is new and reflects new mandates and restructuring]*"

Paragraph 11.8

Revise paragraph 11.8 to read:

"Indicators of achievement will include the number of activities carried out by the secretariat of UN-Habitat to assist countries in:

(a) Adopting national legislation for the granting and protection of tenure, recognizing women's tenurial rights, inheritance rights, introducing policies and procedures for more open and affordable land markets, and introducing measures and policies to reduce forced evictions;

(b) Assessing progress made towards meeting the Millennium Declaration target of significantly improving the quality of life of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by the year 2020 through UN-Habitat-supported initiatives;

(c) Adopting national legislation to facilitate sustainable urban development and participatory, transparent and accountable urban governance. *[part of subparagraph (a) is derived from old subparagraph 11.8 (a); the remainder is new and reflects new mandates and restructuring]"*

Paragraph 11.9

At the end of the last sentence, replace the words "at the national and local levels" with the words "at the international, national and local levels".

Paragraph 11.11 (c)

Replace the words "poverty reduction" with the words "poverty eradication".

Paragraph 11.12 (b)

- **Replace the words "Adoption by Governments and local authorities" with the words "Adoption at the international, national and local levels".**
- **Replace the words "poverty reduction" with the words "poverty eradication".**

Paragraph 11.13 (b)

Replace the words "The number of Governments" with the words "The number of international institutions and national".

Paragraph 11.13 (c)

After the words "UN-Habitat and its partners", insert the words "and the percentage of these projects and programmes".

Paragraph 11.14

In the last sentence, after the words "important feedback", insert the words "on lessons learned and best practices".

Paragraph 11.15

– Replace the words "at the national and local levels" with the words "primarily at the national level and also at the local level".

– At the end of the paragraph, add the words "and within the legal framework of each country".

Paragraph 11.17

Revise the paragraph to read:

"The number of States assisted, upon request, by UN-Habitat, to:

(a) Establish and maintain effective relationships with Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners;

(b) Provide advisory services and implement technical cooperation projects and programmes in the area of human settlements;

(c) Coordinate advocacy activities within the respective regions, particularly in the context of the global campaigns;

(d) Promote the development of partnerships for project implementation."

Paragraph 11.20

Throughout the paragraph, insert the words "and international" after the word "domestic".

Paragraph 11.23 (c)

Insert the words "private sector donors" before the words "and bilateral donors".

Paragraph 11.24 (b)

After the words "from domestic sources", replace the words "in developing countries and countries with economies in transition" with the words "through strengthening the capacity of domestic sources of developing countries and countries with economies in transition".

Paragraph 11.25 (b)

Before the words "The level of", insert the words "The increase of".

Paragraph 11.25 (c)

Before the words "The level of", insert the words "The increase of".

Programme 12
Crime prevention and criminal justice

147. At its 12th meeting, on 19 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 12, Crime prevention and criminal justice, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 12)).

148. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed revisions and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the revisions.

Discussion

149. General support for the programme was expressed. The balance between crime prevention and criminal justice was commended. As regarded terrorism, it was felt that the role of the Centre for International Crime Prevention was to provide technical assistance.

150. A view was expressed that paragraph 12.3 (f) should be brought in line with paragraph 24 (b) of General Assembly resolution 56/261 entitled "Plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century".

151. It was pointed out that paragraph 12.8 (c) was vague and that paragraph 12.8 (f) should have elaborated on the usefulness of the databases.

Conclusions and recommendations

152. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 of programme 12, Crime prevention and criminal justice, with the following modifications:**

Paragraph 12.1

Replace the words "the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the road map towards its implementation" with the words "the recommendations on crime prevention of the United Nations Millennium Declaration".

Paragraph 12.3 (f)

Replace the words "and by raising public awareness" with the words "and, in cooperation with Member States, by raising awareness".

Paragraph 12.3 (j)

Replace paragraph 12.3 (j) with the following: "Monitoring efforts by Member States to combat the criminal misuse of information technology".

Paragraph 12.3 (m)

At the end of paragraph 12.3 (m), add the words "and urging increased donor contributions to the general fund".

Paragraph 12.3 (n)

Replace paragraph 12.3 (n) with paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 56/123, as follows: "Encouraging relevant Secretariat entities, programmes, funds and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank, and regional and national funding agencies, to support the technical operational activities of the Centre".

Paragraph 12.7 (b)

Replace the words "The successful negotiation and adoption of" with the words "The successful negotiation, adoption and implementation of".

Paragraph 12.7 (e)

After the words "An enhanced level of concerted action", insert the words "measured by a more effective cooperation".

Paragraph 12.8 (c)

Replace paragraph 12.8 (c) with the following: "The degree of appreciation expressed by the Ad Hoc Committee for the Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption for the services provided for the negotiation of a convention against corruption".

Programme 13
International drug control

153. At its 12th meeting, on 19 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 13, International drug control, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 13)).

154. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed revisions and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of these revisions.

Discussion

155. General support for the programme and for the proposed revisions thereto, including those that showed the participation of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) (UNAIDS), was expressed. The view was expressed that such participation should not result in a reduction of other important core activities of the programme.

156. It was observed that proposed amendments to the medium-term plan included the approved narrative of the programme budget for 2002-2003. In this connection, the view was expressed that short-term goals/objectives in the programme budget were different from those in the medium-term plan.

157. A view was expressed that expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement should measure the work of the Organization and not that of individual Member States.

Conclusions and recommendations

158. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 13, International drug control, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, with the following modifications:

Paragraph 13.3

At the end of the paragraph, add the words "and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly on the item".

Paragraph 13.7

In the first sentence, insert the word "primarily" after the word "vested".

Paragraph 13.9 (c)

Retain the original wording contained in paragraph 13.9 (c) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1) and delete the proposed new paragraph 13.9 (d).

Paragraph 13.9 (g)

Retain the words "Timely dissemination" and the words "as well as on control measures".

Paragraph 13.10 (b)

Retain the original wording contained in paragraph 13.10 (b) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1).

Paragraph 13.10 (c)

After the phrase "civil society activities", insert the phrase "in particular through contributions to governmental decision-making processes and policies".

Paragraph 13.10 (d)

After the words "Measures taken to", insert the words "assist Governments to".

Paragraph 13.15 (c)

Replace the word "accepting" with the word "using".

Paragraph 13.15 (e)

Delete the subparagraph.

Paragraph 13.15 (f)

Replace the new text with the phrase "The increased availability of the repository of legal information to facilitate its use by Governments and relevant entities".

Paragraph 13.15 (g)

Replace the existing text with the following: "An increased number of Governments assisted, upon request, by UNDCP, in maritime drug law enforcement and cooperation and the resulting number and impact of successful operations".

Paragraph 13.15 (h)

At the beginning of the paragraph, insert the words "Improved coordination in detecting".

Paragraph 13.15 (i)

Replace the words "The number of Governments following the recommendation of the Commission" with the words "The quality of assistance provided to Member States".

Paragraph 13.15 (j)

After the phrase "at their request", insert the phrase "based on commitments between the Governments and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme,".

Paragraph 13.15 (n)

Delete the subparagraph.

Paragraph 13.19 (g)

Replace the new text with the following: "Improvement in the various guides produced focusing on prevention and treatment issues used by Member States".

Paragraph 13.20 (d)

Replace the words "The number of Member States with more" with the words "The number of Member States assisted, upon request, by UNDCP, in incorporating", and delete the works "in place".

Paragraph 13.20 (e)

Replace the existing text of the subparagraph with the following: "The number of Member States assisted, upon request, by UNDCP in using standardized and harmonized methodologies for drug abuse data collection on at least one of the key indicators".

Paragraph 13.20 (h)

Delete the phrase "and actually in use by Member States" and insert at the end of the paragraph the words "and the acceptance into use by Member States of such guides".

Paragraph 13.26 (f)

Replace the existing text with the following: "Publication of annual estimates on illicit cultivation and production of narcotic drugs in the countries assisted by UNDCP".

Paragraph 13.26 (g)

Replace the new text with the following: "The number of Member States assisted by UNDCP, upon request, in incorporating best practices on law enforcement and alternative development plans".

Paragraph 13.26 (m)

Insert the words "with the assistance of UNDCP" after the word "trained".

159. **The Committee concluded that the proposed revisions for programme 13 contained too many expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement and that results-based budgeting could best be operative if the number of expected accomplishments and of indicators of achievement were limited.**

Programme 14
Economic and social development in Africa

160. At its 14th meeting, on 20 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 14)).

161. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed revisions and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of them.

Discussion

162. Support was expressed for the programme. The inclusion of new mandates related to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), HIV/AIDS and the least developed countries was welcomed. The view was expressed that references to the United Nations Millennium Declaration should be included in the text of the overall orientation of the programme. It was pointed out that the proposed revisions should have included references to the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa. The view was expressed that reference to the South-South summit held in Havana in the spring of 2000 should be incorporated in the text under overall orientation. The inclusion of the reference to the Constitutive Act of the African Union under subprogramme 6 was welcomed.

163. The establishment of the new subprogramme 9, dealing with training and infrastructure development, was supported. The view was also expressed that since the training activities to be carried out under new subprogramme 9 were cross-cutting they could have been addressed under already existing subprogrammes.

164. The view was expressed that a number of indicators of achievement should be reformulated in order to provide a qualitative analysis of the impact of the work and of the progress achieved.

165. Clarification was sought of the definition of the concepts "economic management" and "corporate governance". It was explained that they referred to the daily management of economics, including macroeconomic stability, effective management, regulatory and appropriate frameworks, the achievement of greater transparency and the fight against corruption.

166. Queries were raised about the change of the name of subprogramme 3. It was explained that food security was still an issue to be dealt with by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

Conclusions and recommendations

167. **The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it examine this programme in the light of the final assessment of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) and any decisions which might be taken on NEPAD.**

168. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 14, Economic and social development in Africa, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, with the following modifications:**

Indicators of achievement

Throughout the whole text, after the word "number" insert the words "and impact".

Paragraph 14.2

At the end of the paragraph, add the words "the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Declaration and the Havana Programme of Action adopted by the South Summit of the Group of 77, held in Havana from 10 to 14 April 2000".

Paragraph 14.13 (a)

In the third sentence, after the words "the Lomé IV Convention", insert the words "and other trade-related bilateral and multilateral initiatives".

Paragraph 14.13 (c)

Retain the original wording of paragraph 14.13 (c) of the medium-term plan, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Subprogramme 3

Retain the original name of subprogramme 3 given in the medium-term plan, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Paragraph 14.21 (b)

At the end of the second sentence, after the words "economic and corporate governance", insert the words "in the context of implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development".

Paragraph 14.21 (c)

Delete the first sentence (*moved from old paragraph 14.13 (c)*).

Paragraph 14.30

Retain the original wording of paragraph 14.30 of the medium-term plan, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Paragraph 14.31 (b)

Retain the original wording of paragraph 14.31 (b) of the medium-term plan, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Paragraph 14.31 (c)

Retain the original wording of paragraph 14.31 (c) of the medium-term plan, as contained in document A/55/6/Rev.1.

Paragraph 14.37

In the third sentence, replace the words "in the framework of the implementation of" with the words "in support of the objectives of".

Paragraph 14.43

Replace the words "the number of" with the words "efficiency in the training provided to".

Legislative mandates

- **Add General Assembly resolutions 56/202 (Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries), 55/182 and 56/178 (International trade and development) to the general part.**
- **Add General Assembly resolution 55/182 (International trade and development) to subprogramme 2.**

Programme 15
Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

169. At its 14th meeting, on 20 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the medium-term plan for the period of 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 15)).

170. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed revisions and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of them.

Discussion

171. Support was expressed for the proposed revisions and for the important role of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in the region. It was noted with appreciation that the reformulated programme was more focused and result-oriented and that higher priority was given to poverty reduction and to combating the spread of HIV/AIDS.

172. The view was expressed that the reorganization of ESCAP was a welcome and necessary exercise, and appreciation was expressed for the series of intergovernmental consultations and extensive informal consultations with Member States that had been undertaken in the course of that exercise.

173. Although it was recognized that, in general, the revised indicators had been improved compared with the original ones, the view was also expressed that further efforts should be made to identify more appropriate indicators which should clearly connect to expected accomplishments and the outcome of the work of ESCAP.

174. The view was expressed that references to the least developed countries should have been included in each subprogramme and not only in subprogrammes 1 and 4.

175. It was suggested that reference to South-South cooperation and to the outcome of the Havana Summit be carefully articulated under the strategy, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement.

176. The view was expressed that ESCAP should continue to reform its programmes and practices to make them more demand-driven and interactive.

Conclusions and recommendations

177. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 15, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, with the following modifications:**

Throughout the text

- **Replace the words "poverty reduction" with the words "poverty eradication" throughout the text of the programme.**
- **Replace the phrase "Emerging social issues" with "Social development, including emerging social issues", including in the title of subprogramme 7.**
- **Replace the term "vulnerable" or "vulnerable groups" with "marginalized" or "marginalized groups".**

Paragraph 15.1

In the second sentence, after the words "that allow them", insert the words "while minimizing the adverse impacts of globalization".

Paragraph 15.3

- **At the end of the fourth sentence, after the words "economic, social and environmental areas", add the words "as well as on matters relating to human resource development".**
- **In the penultimate sentence, delete the words "to 'human security'".**

Paragraph 15.5

The first sentence should read: "In line with global priorities, and taking into account the diversity in levels of development of countries and areas of the

Asia and Pacific region, the programme will focus especially on the concerns of the developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the region, particularly the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, to accelerate their integration into the regional and global economies."

Paragraph 15.8 (a)

After the words "poverty, population and the environment", insert the words "and economic growth".

Paragraph 15.8 (c)

Replace the words "poverty alleviation" with the words "poverty eradication".

Paragraph 15.9

- In the first sentence, replace the words "economic and social position of the poor" with the words "economic and social condition of the poor".
- The second sentence should be changed to read: "ESCAP will give special attention to reducing poverty, especially in the developing countries and countries with economies in transition of the region, taking into account particularly the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States".
- At the end of the last sentence, add the words "and the relevant provisions of the Declaration and the Havana Programme of Action adopted by the South Summit of the Group of 77, held in Havana from 10 to 14 April 2000".

Paragraph 15.10 (a)

Replace the words "recognition of ESCAP as a think tank with a thorough understanding of" with the words "enhanced analytical, policy and operational capabilities of ESCAP as regards".

Paragraph 15.10 (b)

After the words "pro-poor", insert the words "economic growth".

Paragraph 15.10 (c)

Insert the word "facilitating" before the words "enhanced regional cooperation".

Paragraph 15.11 (a)

Replace the words "the views of members and associate members" with the words "satisfaction of Member States".

Paragraph 15.11 (b)

Insert the words "inter alia" between the words "associate members" and the words "in response to".

Paragraph 15.11 (c)

Replace paragraph 15.11 (c) with the following: "the number of pilot projects implemented, adopted and replicated in the region, on the basis of best practices in poverty eradication".

Paragraph 15.12

- **Replace the words "to generate poverty data and measure progress towards the millennium development goals" with the words "to collate and utilize sectoral data, particularly relating to poverty, and measure progress towards development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration".**
- **After the words "progress towards", insert the words "mobilizing international, regional and national resources in achieving".**

Paragraph 15.13 (b)

After the words "policy formulation", insert the words "resource mobilization".

Paragraph 15.13 (f)

After paragraph 15.13 (f), add a new subparagraph (g) as follows: "Collect and disseminate statistical data on mobilizing international, regional and national resources for poverty eradication".

Paragraph 15.15 (b)

The subparagraph should read: "increased capacity, especially in the developing countries and countries with economies in transition of the region, taking into account particularly the special needs of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States to identify, collect, process, analyse, utilize and disseminate data needed for national economic and social development, including the capacity to support the analysis of gender issues".

Paragraph 15.15 (c)

After the word "collaboration", insert the words "in resource mobilization at the international, regional and national levels".

Paragraph 15.16 (c)

Before the words "gender issues", insert the words "resource mobilization and".

Paragraph 15.19

Subparagraph (d) should read: "enhanced capacity, especially of the developing countries and countries with economies in transition of the region, particularly the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in removing impediments related to investment attraction, facilitation and implementation measures". The reference to "central and local officials" has been deleted.

Subparagraph (e) should read: "enhanced capacity of national institutions assisting small and medium-sized enterprises of developing country members and associate members, and countries with economies in transition, especially the developing countries of the region, particularly the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, to increase their export competitiveness".

Paragraph 15.20

Reword subparagraph 15.20 (b) to read: "an increase in the number of advisory services to members of the region for accession to the World Trade Organization".

Reword subparagraph 15.20 (c) to read: "an increase in the number of advisory services to members of the region for new signatories to the Bangkok Agreement".

Delete subparagraph 15.20 (d).

Reword subparagraph 15.20 (e) (now subparagraph 15.20 (d)) to read: "an increase in the number of advisory services, especially to the developing countries and countries with economies in transition of the region, particularly the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in introducing new or modified legislation, regulations and/or policies with regard to investment attraction, facilitation and implementation measures".

Paragraph 15.26

After the words "strategies that would enable them", insert the words "while minimizing the adverse impacts of globalization".

Paragraph 15.29 (d)

After the words "renewable energy development", add the words "and advanced fossil fuel technologies, where appropriate, and".

Paragraph 15.30 (d)

Replace paragraph 15.30 (d) with the following: "an increase, as appropriate, in the number of national renewable energy plans and advanced fossil fuel technologies plans introduced or improved, energy efficiency policies and measures introduced in energy-intensive establishment, and evidence of enhanced subregional energy cooperation".

Paragraph 15.31

The paragraph should read: "The objective of this subprogramme is to strengthen the capacity of ESCAP members and associate members, especially the developing countries and countries with economies in transition of the region, particularly the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, to create an enabling environment for the development, transfer and application of information, communication and space technology".

Paragraph 15.33

At the end of the paragraph after the words "inter-subregional networking", add the words "inter alia, through South-South cooperation".

Subprogramme 7

Revise the title of subprogramme 7 to read "Social development including emerging social issues".

Paragraph 15.36

- **In the first sentence, after the word "manifestations", add the words "in order to enhance the productivity and quality of human resources".**
- **Replace the first bullet with the following: "Gender equality and mainstreaming and greater participation of marginalized social groups, especially the poor, women, youth, children, people with disabilities, older persons and people living with HIV/AIDS in the context of rapid socio-economic and demographic change".**

Paragraph 15.37 (c)

Replace the words "undertake policy analysis of emerging social issues" with the words "engage in social development planning".

Legislative mandates

Add the following General Assembly resolutions:

"52/194: Role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty" (subprogramme 1)

"55/182: International trade and development" (subprogramme 3)

"56/202: Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries" (subprogrammes 1 and 6)

Programme 16
Economic development in Europe

178. At its 14th meeting, on 20 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 16, Economic development in Europe, of the medium-term plan for the period of 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 16)).

179. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed revisions and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of them. He also recommended that the Committee approve an additional revision consisting of the addition of the words "and social" after the words "economic" in the second sentence of paragraph 16.2.

Discussion

180. Support was expressed for the proposed revisions, including the division of subprogramme 6 into two subprogrammes — Trade development and Industrial restructuring and enterprise development — since those subjects represented a major economic challenge for countries with economies in transition. However, some concern was expressed about the division of subprogramme 6 since it was considered that trade, industry and enterprise development were issues that should remain in the same subprogramme. Concern was also expressed that the creation of a new subprogramme 9 could have no other effect than expanding the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) bureaucracy.

181. It was pointed out that no reference to the side effects of the ongoing process of enlargement of the European Union had been included in the proposed revisions. It was further stated that, in view of the expertise of ECE in a number of sectors, such as trade and trade facilitation and enterprise development, the revisions should include reference to the assistance that ECE could be in a position to provide to other regional commissions in those areas.

182. The view was expressed that the outcomes of international conferences did not constitute a sufficient basis for changing the mandates or overall orientation of ECE, and regional commissions should follow or implement those broad outlines in a way that was relevant to their core functions and served their members' interests and needs. Also, the ECE secretariat should seek intergovernmental agreement for its proposals at the commission level before presenting them to the Committee for consideration.

Conclusions and recommendations

183. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 16, Economic development in Europe, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, with the following modifications:

Paragraph 16.13

Add the following new subparagraph (f):

"(f) Performance of the necessary administrative functions to maintain and update the 'Compendium of Candidate Regulations for Harmonization' and 'Registry for Global Regulations' associated with the 1998 'Agreement Concerning the Establishment of Global Technical Regulations for Wheeled Vehicles, Equipment and Parts Which Can Be Fitted and/or Be Used on Wheeled Vehicles', to enable the Agreement to become fully operational."

Paragraph 16.33 (d)

Add, at the end of the subparagraph, the words "in accordance with WTO regulations".

Paragraph 16.34 (a)

Insert the words "new and/or updated" between the words "the number of" and the words "ECE trade facilitation".

Paragraph 16.34 (b)

Retain the original indicator as another item.

Paragraph 16.34 (c)

Retain the original indicator as a new one.

Paragraph 16.49 (c)

Replace the words "the number of" with the words "the delivering of assistance to" and insert the words "with a view to" after the words "countries with economies in transition".

Programme 17
Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

184. At its 15th meeting, on 20 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 17)).

185. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed revisions and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the revisions.

Discussion

186. Support was expressed for the programme and the proposed revisions. The inclusion of the relevant provisions of the Millennium Declaration was noted with appreciation.

187. The view was expressed that the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) was of great importance to the development of the Latin American and Caribbean region. Delegations expressed praise for the work carried out by the programme in assisting Member States in assessing the economic and social effects of natural disasters and related recovery tasks as well as the efforts of ECLAC to assist the countries of the region in following up and implementing the outcomes of the recent major international conferences convened under the auspices of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields.

188. It was observed that gender mainstreaming had been emphasized in all aspects of the work programme of ECLAC because of the cross-cutting nature of the issue. The view was expressed that emphasis should also be placed on issues of major

concern for the region, such as poverty reduction, development and the social consequences of structural adjustment policies.

189. Delegations felt that the sentence proposed for deletion in paragraph 17.3 — "Gender mainstreaming, consideration of environmental sustainability, institution-building and improvement of public regulation are priority aspects of such interrelationships" — should be retained since it encompassed a concept of importance for the whole programme.

190. Delegations mostly welcomed the proposed inclusion of the new sentence in paragraph 17.21 — "In the context of social development and equity, special emphasis will be given to consolidating the approach to development based on human rights and the promotion of peace and democracy". However, a question was raised in that regard concerning the mandate for the last part of this sentence — "approach to development based on human rights and the promotion of peace and democracy" — on the grounds that it was not based properly on any specific mandate. Concern was expressed that the insertion proposed for paragraph 17.21 did not come from any mandate of ECLAC, as had been indicated by the Secretariat. The insertion was beyond the objective of the revisions to the medium-term plan, which was aimed at updating the medium-term plan with the relevant mandates after its adoption. In this context, the Committee was unable to reach agreement regarding the retention or the deletion of the proposed new text.

191. Concern was expressed that some of the proposed revisions diluted the emphasis of the work of ECLAC in the field of the eradication of poverty and social inequity.

192. Some delegations felt that, in item (a) in paragraph 17.22, emphasis should be placed on social justice and equity, in addition to the emphasis placed on gender inequality.

193. Support was expressed for the proposed inclusion of the phrase "and for using a core set of gender indicators for public policy formulation and implementation" in paragraph 17.25 under subprogramme 5. In that regard, it was pointed out that the creation of databases, as recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in its report,[2] could serve to avoid unnecessary duplication and spread best practices. The view was also expressed that, in paragraph 17.28, the indicator of achievement (c) should be reformulated to shift emphasis from "consolidation of national and regional institutions dealing with gender issues" to "mainstreaming gender issues in public policy formulation and implementation in the relevant economic and social sectors".

194. It was also observed that the revisions should include a reference to the Monterrey Consensus resulting from the recent International Conference on Financing for Development.

195. Finally, questions were raised as to whether the Assembly of ECLAC at its 2002 session had given sufficient consideration to the proposed revisions.

Conclusions and recommendations

196. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 17, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, with the following modifications:**

Paragraph 17.3

- Retain the original wording of the text proposed for deletion — "Gender mainstreaming, consideration of environmental sustainability, institution-building and improvement of public regulation are priority aspects of such interrelationships" — in paragraph 17.3 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1);

- Add at the end of the second sentence the following: "The Monterrey Consensus, as adopted by the General Assembly, will also be regarded as a guideline to implement activities related to the programme of work of ECLAC."

Paragraph 17.22 (a)

Replace the text in bold type reading "and reduce poverty with a focus on gender inequality" with the words "and reduce poverty particularly with a focus on reducing gender inequality, in this regard".

Paragraph 17.22 (c) and (e)

- Retain the original wordings contained in paragraph 17.22 (c) and (e) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1);

- Retain the new text contained in paragraph 17.22 (c) and (e).

Paragraph 17.23 (b)

- Retain the original wording in paragraph 17.23 (b) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1) and renumber accordingly, as a new indicator;

- Retain the new text contained in paragraph 17.23 (b);

- Insert after "lessons learned" the phrase "with the assistance of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean".

Paragraph 17.28 (c)

Replace the text of paragraph 17.28 (c) with the words "mainstreaming gender issues in public policy formulation and implementation in the relevant economic and social sectors".

Paragraph 17.50 (c)

- Retain the original wording in paragraph 17.50 (c) of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1) and renumber accordingly, as a new indicator;

- Retain the new text contained in paragraph 17.50 (c).

Legislative mandates

Under General Assembly resolutions add: "56/178 International trade and development".

Subprogramme 4

Add General Assembly resolution: "52/194 Role of microcredit in the eradication of poverty".

Add General Assembly resolution: "56/202 Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries".

197. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly, at its fifty-seventh session, further consider paragraph 17.21 of the programme.**

Programme 18
Economic and social development in Western Asia

198. At its 15th meeting, on 20 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 18, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 18)).

199. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed revisions and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the revisions.

Discussion

200. Support was expressed for the programme. It was noted that the proposed revisions represented a noticeable improvement in comparison with the current text of the programme.

201. The view was expressed that the goals of the revised programme were rather ambitious taking into account the resources available. The view was also expressed that the description of the main elements of the strategy to be pursued by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) was overly broad, exceeded the scope of regional integration and should be reviewed to ensure that it reflected the capacity of the Secretariat. Under subprogramme 4, there were too many activities and therefore priorities should be defined. It was observed that the strategy relating to information technology was also very ambitious.

202. Concern was expressed that too many indicators of achievement were of a quantitative nature and could not be used for impact analysis of the progress achieved. The view was expressed that there was a need for better understanding of the role of indicators which should measure the performance of ESCWA, and not the performance of individual Member States.

203. The view was expressed that, under subprogramme 6, the goal should be to assist Member States in building their national statistical capacities.

204. Some delegations expressed the view that the references to "the right to development" contained in paragraphs 18.12 and 18.19 should be deleted, while others favoured their retention. The Committee could therefore not reach an agreement on this matter.

Conclusions and recommendations

205. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 18, Economic and**

social development in Western Asia, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, with the following modifications:

Paragraphs 18.5 (c) and 18.41 (d)

Replace the words "least advantaged" with the word "marginalized".

Paragraph 18.20 (b)

Replace the words "unemployment reduction, employment-linked education," with the words "unemployment reduction that employ innovative means like micro-credit, employment-linked education,".

Paragraph 18.22

Replace the existing text of item (e) with the following: "increase in the number of Member States addressing population and urban-governance related issues in their national policies".

Paragraph 18.30

Insert the word "information" between the words "goods", and "services";

Add the words "and the opportunities offered by" after the words "challenges posed by".

Paragraph 18.31 (b)

Replace the words "to minimize potential threats" with the words "to meet challenges".

Paragraph 18.40

In item (a), replace the words "policies in the development process" with the words "policies, strengthened institutional capacities and regulatory framework in the development process".

Paragraph 18.43

In the second sentence, after the word "compatible", insert the phrase ", as far as possible,".

Paragraph 18.51

Replace the existing text of item (a) with the words "increased number of Member States using statistical tools for data analysis, guided by international standards".

Legislative mandates

Under subprogrammes 1, 2 and 5, add General Assembly resolution: "56/202 Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries".

206. **The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly, at its fifty-seventh session, further consider paragraphs 18.12 and 18.19 of the programme.**

Programme 19
Human rights

207. At its 16th meeting, on 21 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 19, Human rights, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 19)).

208. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed revisions and responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of those revisions.

Discussion

209. Support for the programme and for the proposed revisions was expressed. The Secretariat was complimented for remaining within the confines of the approved medium-term plan.

210. A view was expressed that the right to development and research and analysis should have been proposed as two separate subprogrammes. It was also stated that it might be difficult to separate the right to development from the concept of human rights as a whole.

211. Concern was expressed that the expected accomplishments and measurements of achievement of Part A, Right to development, and Part B, Research and analysis, could not precisely reflect the objectives and strategies described under those parts.

212. Concern was also expressed regarding the reference, as a legislative mandate, to General Assembly resolution 56/266 of 27 March 2002 on the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. General support was expressed for the reference to resolution 56/266 as an important contribution of the United Nations to the promotion of the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. In that regard, delegations also pointed to the need to include a particular reference to subprogramme 2, in particular after the adoption of the Durban Programme of Action and resolution 56/266.

213. Concern was furthermore expressed about an eventual allocation of resources to promote the right to development. The need was also expressed to provide all the necessary capacity and provisions in order to integrate the right to development in all programmes of the Organization.

214. The approach based on the indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights referred to in paragraph 19.8 was commended.

215. One delegation expressed its concern and objection to the Declaration and resolutions on the right to development.

216. Views were expressed in favour of the inclusion of General Assembly resolution 56/146 on Equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies as a legislative mandate of subprogramme 1, while views

were also expressed against such an inclusion. The Committee was therefore unable to reach a consensus on the matter.

Conclusions and recommendations

217. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 19, Human rights, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, with the following modifications:**

Paragraph 19.5 (a)

After the words "the right to development", add the words "aimed at the full realization of the right to development".

Paragraph 19.5 (b)

Delete the subparagraph.

Paragraph 19.5 (c)

Delete the words "all human rights, including".

Paragraph 19.7 (b)

- **After the word "mandates", insert the words "relevant to the right to development";**
- **After the words "given to the Secretariat", insert the words "including the holding of seminars and workshops organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights".**
- **Delete the words "most recently";**

Paragraph 19.7 (c)

Delete the subparagraph.

Subprogramme 3

New paragraph 19.16 (d)

Under expected accomplishments: "Provision of the appropriate assistance to the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa to ensure its efficiency and smooth functioning".

New paragraph 19.18 (d)

Under measurements of achievement: "Appropriate assistance provided to the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa and its impact on the effective functioning of the Centre".

Legislative mandates

Programme 19

General Assembly resolutions

S-27/2 A world fit for children

Commission on Human Rights resolutions

2002/38 Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Subprogramme 1

General Assembly resolutions

55/100 Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification

55/192 Culture and development

Subprogramme 3

General Assembly resolutions

56/230 Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

56/253 Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

218. **The Committee also noted the proposal to include under subprogramme 1 a reference to General Assembly resolution 56/146 on equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies, and recommended that the General Assembly further consider and take appropriate action on the matter at its fifty-seventh session.**

Programme 24
Management and central support services

219. At its 16th meeting, on 21 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 24, Management and central support services, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 24)).

220. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed revisions and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

221. General support was expressed for the revisions to programme 24, Management and central support services.

222. A view was expressed that the capacity of the International Computing Centre should be utilized in implementing the results-based budgeting with a view to enhancing it as a management tool.

223. It was pointed out that subprogramme 3 was a subject of particular attention to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly.

224. The view was expressed that the programme should have more emphasis on the provision of adequate services to Member States, in particular in the case of conference and support service.

Conclusions and recommendations

225. **The Committee recommended to the General Assembly the approval of the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 24, Management and central support services, subject to the following modifications:**

(a) In the last sentence of paragraph 24.1, retain the reference to resolution 53/221;

(b) In the second sentence of paragraph 24.2, replace the word "introduction" with the words "effective use" and replace the words "as a management tool for enhancing" with the words "which is intended to provide, in essence, a management tool that should enhance";

(c) In the third sentence of paragraph 24.10, replace the word "introduction" with the word "employment";

(d) In the fourth sentence of paragraph 24.14, after the word "concentrate", insert the words ", among other tasks," and replace the words "of mobility of staff to maximize its benefits for the Organization and further streamlining recruitment and placement procedures." with the words "for mobility of staff to maximize its benefits for the Organization, consistent with section V, paragraph 1, of General Assembly resolution 55/258".

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 3

(e) Retain the reference to resolution 53/221 on human resources management.

Programme 25
Internal oversight

226. At its 16th meeting, on 21 June 2002, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 25, Internal oversight, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 25)).

227. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced programme 25 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the proposed revisions to the programme.

Discussion

228. Queries were raised regarding the proposed deletion of text related to the realignment of subprogrammes under programme 25. It was noted that the functions should not be deleted in their entirety from the programme, but only moved between subprogrammes in line with the reorganization. In particular, the view was expressed that the text proposed for deletion from the second sentence of paragraph 25.19 should be either reinstated or reflected under subprogramme 1.

229. The references to the Millennium Declaration were noted and clarification of the impact of the Millennium Declaration on the programme was sought.

230. The view was expressed that, taking into account the expected accomplishments outlined in paragraph 25.8, the related indicators of achievement in paragraph 25.9 should reflect, not only the number of recommendations, but also the follow-up to audit recommendations.

231. Clarification was sought on the status of the reorganization of the programme, as the wording in paragraph 25.3 could be interpreted as an indication that the realignment of the subprogrammes had not yet been implemented.

Conclusions and recommendations

232. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 25, Internal oversight, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, subject to the following modifications:**

Paragraph 25.2

Delete the new proposed text.

Paragraph 25.3

In the first sentence, replace the words "would realign the existing" with the words "has realigned the previous".

Paragraph 25.7

Retain the original wording — "undertake management audits, reviews and surveys to improve the structure of the Organization and its responsiveness to the requirements of programmes and legislative mandates" — of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1).

Paragraph 25.9

Retain the original wording — "a more effective use of financial resources in order to guarantee the implementation of programmes and mandates and more effective procedures" — of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1).

Paragraph 25.19

Amend the second sentence to read: "The Division, while providing management consulting services to improve the level of service delivery and to

enhance the Organization's responsiveness to the requirements of programmes and legislative mandates, will examine, review and appraise the use of financial resources in order to ensure the implementation of programmes and legislative mandates; and ascertain compliance of programme managers with the financial and administrative regulations and rules as well as with the approved recommendations of external oversight bodies".

Paragraph 25.20

Retain the original wording — "greater compliance with General Assembly directives, established regulations, rules, policies and procedures; enhancement of transparency and accountability within the Organization; and" — of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1).

Paragraph 25.21

Delete the word "and" before (b), and add new text "and (c) the impact of management consulting recommendations made by the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the improvement of the implementation of programmes and activities of the Organization".

Paragraph 25.21

Retain the original wording — "and (d) better coordination with external oversight bodies" — of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1).

Programme 26
Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States

233. At its 16th meeting, on 21 June 2002, the Committee considered the narrative of the newly established programme 26, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 26)).

234. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed new programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

235. Full support was expressed for the activities to be carried out by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, as described under the new programme 26 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

236. Questions were raised regarding the organization of the office and the implementation of the programme of action within the three groups of countries under its aegis, as well as the relationships with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries. The representative of the Secretary-

General clarified that his office was working in close coordination with all the entities of the United Nations system involved. He indicated that the main responsibility of his office was to carry out effective coordination and monitoring of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 and the relevant programmes for landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, while UNCTAD focused on research and analytical activities, technical assistance and capacity-building. In that respect it was mentioned that the recurrent report on the least developed countries would continue to be prepared under the responsibility of UNCTAD but on a biennial as opposed to an annual basis.

237. It was felt that a reference to the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, Mexico, March 2002) should be made in the overall orientation.

238. It was noted that the strategy was well spelled out, particularly with regard to maintaining of linkages with other parts of the United Nations system, and that it was in full accordance with the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Follow-up mechanism for coordinating, monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010" (A/56/645). It was also noted that a strategy to avoid duplicative work should be included in order to reflect the creation of the Office of the High Representative.

239. It was noted that, in several paragraphs (e.g., paras. 26.5 and 26.7 (a)), reference was made to the least developed countries only and not to the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States. It was considered that the document could be improved by including equal references to all three groups of countries considered by the programme. It was also suggested that the list of legislative mandates should be expanded in that respect.

240. It was mentioned that one of the priorities of the Office of the High Representative during the period 2002-2005 would be the preparation, coordination and follow-up of the International Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation (General Assembly resolution 56/180, para. 13) and that the role of the Office of the High Representative in the coordination and the involvement of all United Nations agencies and other stakeholders in the preparatory process would be critical to the success of the meeting.

241. The view was expressed that one of the objectives of the programme was to assist the least developed countries in graduating from that category. Another view was that, while graduation was an important concept, it did not mean an automatic improvement of the conditions of life of the people concerned; what was important was to assist countries in improving their social indicators such as health, education, etc., so as to measure the progress made in the conditions and quality of life of their people.

242. The view was expressed that the indicators of achievement should be clear, precise and quantifiable in order to truly measure the progress achieved and the impact of activities. It was suggested that paragraph 26.9 should be expanded in that respect.

Conclusions and recommendations

243. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the text proposed by the Secretary-General for the new programme 26, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, for inclusion in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, with the following modifications:**

Paragraph 26.4

In the first sentence, delete the words "and the subsequent report of the Secretary-General entitled 'Road map towards the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration' (A/56/326)".

Paragraph 26.5

At the end of the paragraph, replace the words "reverse the trend by assisting countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action" with the words "help the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States to progress towards the achievement of the goals by assisting them in the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action as well as the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community and the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States".

Paragraph 26.6

Insert the words "the follow-up and coordination of" after the words "Substantive responsibility for".

Paragraph 26.7 (a)

After "2001-2010", insert the phrase ", the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community and the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States".

Paragraph 26.7 (j)

After the word "Assisting", insert the phrase ", as appropriate,".

Paragraph 26.7 (k)

After the words "of these three groups", insert the phrase ", as well as other developing countries,".

Paragraph 26.8

At the end of the paragraph, add the words "as well as of the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community and the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States".

Paragraph 26.9 (b)

At the end of the subparagraph, add the words "as well as the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community and the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States."

Legislative mandates

Under "General Assembly resolutions", add:

"56/198 Further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

56/180 Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries".

C. Evaluation

(Item 4 (c))

1. Strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives

244. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 10 and 11 June 2002, the Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/57/68).

245. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report.

Discussion

246. The Committee welcomed the report, noting that it was candid, straightforward, comprehensive and useful. It provided an honest assessment of the evaluation function, as currently practised within the United Nations. Concern was expressed at significant non-compliance by programme managers with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, in particular with regard to the evaluation function. It was noted that a culture of evaluation did not seem to have developed yet within the United Nations, and that evaluation had not been mainstreamed or given adequate priority.

247. The Committee regretted that the majority of programmes did not appear to have developed comprehensive evaluation plans as required by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning. It was regretted that only 15 programmes had adopted specific measures to enable the relevant intergovernmental bodies and specialized organs to review evaluation findings. The view was expressed that there should be a closer link between performance of management and resource allocation. However, it was recalled that during the Fifth Committee negotiations on results-based budgeting, the decision had been taken to de-link allocation of

resources from performance, and to focus instead on the review of factors that made programmes work well or not so well.

248. The Committee supported giving increased attention to self-evaluation. It was noted that some departments fully satisfied the requirements for self-evaluation, and it was hoped that others would follow that example with the help of OIOS. It was suggested that the Committee issue a recommendation to the Economic and Social Council requiring programme managers to undertake regular self-evaluations. It was also requested that the cost of self-evaluation to a department be identified in the programme budget. Observations were made on annex I of the report concerning the capacity within departments to undertake evaluation and the fact that some large programmes did not appear to have evaluation units. It was noted that OIOS itself had four Professional evaluators. The view was expressed that the Committee should encourage strengthening of the sections within OIOS that undertook evaluation.

249. The Committee was pleased that more training was being provided and the efforts undertaken by the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts on training for results-based budgeting, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/231. The hope was expressed that as the results-based budgeting methodology matured, improved self-evaluations would be produced efficiently with existing resources. Clarification was requested as to when the updated manual on evaluation would be published. It was emphasized that results-based budgeting, as adopted in resolution 55/231, should be complementary and not in contradiction with the evaluation of the Organization's programmes, as required by the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8).

250. A question was asked whether, in its evaluations, OIOS had given thorough consideration to programmes that had experienced a systematic increase of resource allocation during the previous biennium.

251. Support was expressed for the reduction in the number of in-depth evaluations from two to one per year, so that the evaluation report would be available for a review by intergovernmental bodies prior to review by the Committee. The innovative proposal to introduce thematic evaluations was welcomed, and it was noted that such evaluations would be of particular value for cross-cutting themes and would help to support the implementation of global programmes. Further clarification was requested on the feasibility, scope and criteria for selection of topics for those evaluations and the resources required. Further information was also requested on the experience of other agencies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, in undertaking thematic evaluation. Concern was expressed regarding the impact of adopting thematic evaluations on the future periodicity of in-depth evaluation.

252. The view was expressed that the Joint Inspection Unit should be more involved in the preparation of in-depth evaluations with a view to complying with the request of the General Assembly in paragraph 16 of its resolution 56/245.

Conclusions and recommendations

253. **The Committee expressed concern that many programme managers did not carry out self-evaluations as stipulated in the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation. The Committee emphasized that heads of departments and offices were accountable to ensure fulfilment of the objectives of article VII of the Regulations and Rules concerning evaluation.**

254. **The Committee noted that the implementation of the results-based budgeting should enhance programme performance in a manner that was complementary to the existing evaluation system, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/231.**

255. **The Committee agreed with the proposal contained in the report on strengthening the role of evaluation findings, that the central evaluation activities implemented by the Office of Internal Oversight Services consist of one in-depth evaluation each year, releasing some of the existing capacity to:**

(a) Enhance support for self-evaluation by other departments and offices;

(b) Prepare one thematic evaluation on a cross-cutting theme from among the priority areas of work of the Organization included in the medium-term plan.

256. **The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General report on the implementation of the proposal contained in paragraph 255 (a) above, in the context of the biennial report of OIOS on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives.**

257. **With reference to paragraph 255 (b) above, the Committee requested the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services to propose themes for consideration by the Committee at its forty-third session, at which time the Committee would consider commissioning a pilot project on one theme. The pilot project would subsequently be considered by the relevant intergovernmental bodies. The usefulness of that pilot project would be considered by the Committee at its forty-fifth session.**

258. **The Committee reiterated the need for evaluation of programme activities to be consistent with the provisions of regulation 7.1 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.**

259. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the following schedule of in-depth evaluations (to be submitted to the Committee at its forty-third, forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions, respectively):**

(a) Law of the sea and ocean affairs;

(b) Public administration, finance and development;

(c) Human settlements.

2. In-depth evaluation of the subprogrammes on General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and Council support and coordination

260. At its 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings, on 10 and 11 June 2002, the Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the subprogrammes on General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and Economic and Social Council support and coordination (E/AC.51/2002/4).

261. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report.

Discussion

262. The Committee welcomed the report, noting that it was useful, comprehensive and documented a number of good lessons. The Committee was pleased to see that the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division had overall provided efficient services. The view was expressed that the Division for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination could be considered a model. Useful innovations such as organizing round tables, panel discussions, seminars and joint meetings with the Bretton Woods institutions were noted.

263. Support was expressed for a more active role of the Secretariat in making suggestions on the grouping and scheduling of agenda items, in submitting timely reports, in improving the utilization of meeting time at the beginning of sessions, and in advising non-governmental organizations on the process of application for consultative status.

264. The question was raised whether the lack of invitations to eminent persons explained the low participation of senior officials from United Nations organizations in the high-level segments, noted in table 4. Concern was expressed regarding the marginal participation of non-governmental organizations from Africa in the work of the Economic and Social Council and the question was raised whether insufficient public awareness was preventing them from increasing their number.

265. Concern was expressed that some recommendations were aimed at enhancing the role of the Secretariat with respect to aspects of matters which were the prerogative of Member States, including issues relating to streamlining the agenda of the General Assembly.

266. The following views were expressed regarding a number of recommendations presented in part one of the report:

(a) *Recommendation 1 (c)*. As the purpose of the joint meetings with the Bretton Woods institutions was to have a frank discussion, some delegations expressed the view that it might not be desirable to produce an outcome document, while others maintained that that represented a good idea;

(b) *Recommendation 1 (d)*. While it was felt that documentation should be provided in a timely fashion to delegations in Geneva, it was suggested that the briefing of delegations in Geneva should be done by the New York missions;

(c) *Recommendation 2*. Concern was expressed about establishing an indicative multi-year horizon for topics to be discussed and it was suggested that the Office of Internal Oversight Services re-examine that issue;

(d) *Recommendation 4*. Concern was expressed that the recommendation was in contradiction with the resolution adopted by the Second Committee every year on operational activities;

(e) *Recommendation 5*. Concern was expressed on the rescheduling of the Economic and Social Council segments throughout the year, because such a measure might affect the participation of small delegations, especially those from the developing countries;

(f) *Recommendation 6 (b)*. The redesign of the Economic and Social Council web site was supported on the condition that such a change would be an enhancement and not a replacement of the existing system, which is widely used by many delegations;

(g) *Recommendation 7*. Delegations emphasized the role of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations in analysing the applications of non-governmental organizations seeking to obtain consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; on the question of enhancing the efficiency of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, delegations were against the idea of limiting the discussion to previously asked questions, since such a measure could limit the participation of Member States on matters of concern to them.

267. Regarding matters addressed mainly in part two of the document, the Committee expressed serious concern about the continuing problem of the timely issuance of documents. The Committee stressed the importance of delegations' familiarizing themselves with the documents before the sessions and the need to consult their Governments in order to make statements. It was noted that the six-week rule was considered by the Office of Internal Oversight Services to be unrealistic, and clarification was sought on what a realistic deadline for circulating documents would be.

268. Regarding recommendation 1 (a) of part two, it was observed that the recommendation related to the grouping of agenda items and the revitalization of the General Assembly, which would be the subject of upcoming consultations. The issue should therefore not be considered by the Committee until the outcome of those consultations was known and further study of the impact of the recommendation had been made by the Committee.

269. It was further observed that recommendations 1 (a) and (b) of part two of the report were being addressed in the context of the process of reform of the Organization proposed by the Secretary-General in 1997, and they were not approved by the General Assembly. Other similar proposals were being considered in the context of the revitalization of the General Assembly.

270. The view was expressed that the proposals in paragraphs 77 and 78 could have been added to the recommendations presented in the report.

Conclusions and recommendations

271. **The Committee, having considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of the subprogrammes on General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and Economic and Social Council support and coordination (E/AC.51/2002/4), concluded that the conclusions and recommendations included in part one of the report should be**

reviewed by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in July 2002 and by its relevant subsidiary bodies, as well as by the competent Main Committees of the General Assembly.

272. **The Committee noted that some of the recommendations contained in part two of the report related to issues that were being or had been conclusively discussed by the General Assembly and its relevant bodies under various items of the agenda and, in that regard, invited the Committee on Conferences to consider recommendations 1 (c) and (d) and 2 contained in the report, and stressed that, in considering recommendation 2, the need for the provision of adequate services to Member States be kept in mind.**

273. **The Committee, having considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, requested the Secretary-General to take into account the views of all Member States in future evaluation reports of the Office without a selective approach, and stressed the need for the conclusions and recommendations to be reflected objectively, while ensuring justifiability and transparency.**

274. **The Committee expressed deep concern about the question of late issuance of documentation and emphasized that the six-week rule should continue to be observed.**

3. In-depth evaluation of legal affairs

275. At its 4th meeting, on 11 June 2002, the Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the in-depth evaluation of legal affairs (E/AC.51/2002/5).

276. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report. The representative of the Secretary-General responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

277. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the overall good performance of the Office of Legal Affairs. The Committee noted the efforts made by the Office to improve the quality of its services and the timeliness of its reports and also noted the additional measures needed to consolidate those improvements.

278. The Committee noted that there were legal aspects that needed to be attended to in all sectors of the Organization. The view was expressed that the Office of Legal Affairs should be considered as a centre for expertise and resources available to other departments and offices through training and secondment of staff as needed. It was also felt that there was a need for consistent legal expertise both in the contractual administration at Headquarters and in the field, especially in peacekeeping operations. It was noted that the response time to requests for legal advice needed to be shorter in certain circumstances.

279. The remark was made that, with regard to paragraph 10 of the evaluation report, it was not appropriate to characterize the view of one participant as being expressed by a larger group or a majority of Member States.

280. The Committee appreciated the use of model agreements. It was noted that model agreements could not apply in all cases and that there was a need to amend

standard texts in detail. The Committee supported the recommended establishment and maintenance of a reference collection of recent agreements and contracts, which would benefit Member States as well. Clarification was requested as to why the administrative instruction on the drafting of agreements with host countries had not been revised since 1987. Regarding the settlement of commercial claims made against the Organization, the view was expressed that it is important to consider conciliation before arbitration.

281. Coordination was pointed to as a concern owing to the large number of organizations involved in legal affairs. The view was expressed that the main themes of the in-depth evaluation were the need for coordination and the increased workload of the Office of Legal Affairs, and that the Fifth Committee should be made aware of the situation. It was noted that there was an increasing need for coordination in international trade law and that the staff of the International Trade Law Branch of the Office of Legal Affairs had been kept at their 1968 level, which was a worrying fact.

282. The Committee was pleased with the steps taken to resolve the problem of backlog in the publication of treaty and other legal material and trusted that the matter was being kept under constant review to achieve the elimination of backlog within a specified time frame. It was noted that the responsibility for delays in issuance of reports and publications was to be attributed to the special rapporteurs of the International Law Commission and the translation and document processing units of the Secretariat. The view was expressed that a recommendation could have been made on the matter.

283. With regard to recommendation 10 (a), the view was expressed that the matter was not within the competence of the Office of Legal Affairs. Concern was also expressed with recommendation 10 (b), under which the Office of Legal Affairs would prepare background documents on legal issues for delegations. It was not believed that such activity would be an appropriate use of the limited resources of the Office. It was also pointed out that there were existing backlogs that the Office should address prior to deploying its research resources in new areas. It was felt that recommendation 10 (b) could be of great benefit to the Sixth Committee in providing necessary background information on legal aspects of the topics that were rarely covered by United Nations bodies.

284. Views were also expressed that support provided by the Office of Legal Affairs to other departments and offices, at their request, should be developed through such measures as training and outposting of legal officers, as recommended in the in-depth evaluation. It was also felt that more attention should be given to regional issues in the context of fellowship programmes in international law, as recommended in the in-depth evaluation, and that the views of regional organizations should be sought.

285. It was furthermore mentioned that substantive evaluation of vendors' adherence to the basic values of the United Nations system should not be conducted by the Office of Legal Affairs, nor by legal advisers alone.

286. With respect to comments on legal topics requested from Member States, the view was expressed that the number of questionnaires sent to Member States exceeded their capacity to respond. In that regard, it was regretted that the evaluation report did not mention the recently adopted useful practice of addressing

specific questions to Member States for discussion during the debate of each item in the Sixth Committee.

287. Delegations considered that the departmental web site should be improved, in particular with a view to providing full-text materials free of charge and a balance between languages.

288. The efforts that the Office of Legal Affairs had made towards gender parity were noted with appreciation.

Conclusions and recommendations

289. **The Committee recommended approval of recommendations 1 to 7, 9 and 11 to 20 of the in-depth evaluation.**

290. **The Committee highlighted the importance of the Office of Legal Affairs and of the central legal services, which might be needed in all areas of the Organization.**

4. Triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its thirty-ninth session on the in-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme

291. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 10 and 11 June 2002, the Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-ninth session on the in-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme (E/AC.51/2002/6).

292. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report.

Discussion

293. The view was expressed that it was essential that the Department for Disarmament Affairs sustain its interaction with other treaty and regional organizations, and support was expressed for the efforts being made by the Department in that regard.

294. Concerns were raised as to the lack of regular budget funds to support the maintenance and administrative costs of the regional centres for peace and disarmament. It was noted that this was frequently a requirement for donor countries to contribute to the activities of the centres.

295. Regarding access to the databases of relevant departments, clarification was sought as to what was meant by the term "thorough consultations" in the final paragraph of the summary of the report.

296. The view was expressed that, in terms of the Department's advocacy efforts, which have been very useful, in some instances the countries concerned were unable to take follow-up action owing to their own technical and resource constraints. Therefore, the non-ratification of a treaty or convention by a country should not reflect on the Department's own performance but was sometimes due to external factors.

Conclusions and recommendations

297. **The Committee recommended approval of the conclusions of the triennial review.**

298. **The Committee recommended that the triennial review and the Committee's conclusions on it be submitted to the First Committee of the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session for review.**

5. Triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its thirty-ninth session on the in-depth evaluation of the electoral assistance programme

299. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 10 and 11 June 2002, the Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-ninth session on the in-depth evaluation of the electoral assistance programme (E/AC.51/2002/7).

300. The Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services introduced the report.

Discussion

301. The Committee expressed appreciation for the work performed by the Electoral Assistance Division in support of the democratization process, emphasizing the importance of carefully assessing conditions in countries requesting assistance before authorizing it. The Committee noted favourably the Division's support to the electoral process in Fiji, the development of a joint Department of Political Affairs/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) note of guidance and with the Division's participation in various electoral networks. It was also suggested that the White Helmets Initiative could be further explored as a useful tool in the provision of electoral assistance.

302. Support was expressed for all the recommendations, particularly for the need to expedite the allocations of responsibilities among the various relevant organizations of the United Nations system, greater participation in lessons learned by other organizations of the United Nations system and better integration of gender mainstreaming in the activities of the Division.

303. Clarification was requested on: (a) what specific actions were taken by the Division to solicit extrabudgetary funds; (b) the relationship between the note of guidance and the UNDP programme manual; and (c) what actions should be taken to better integrate gender mainstreaming in the activities of the Division.

304. The usefulness of spreading the practice of memorandum of understanding and agreements was emphasized, as well as the importance of the delivery of technical cooperation on electoral legislation prior to the electoral processes for which assistance is requested.

Conclusions and recommendations

305. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve recommendation 3 of the triennial review of the implementation of the**

recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-ninth session on the in-depth evaluation of the electoral assistance programme (E/AC.51/2002/7).

306. **The Committee, having considered the triennial review, recommended that recommendations 1 and 2 be submitted to the Third Committee of the General Assembly, at its fifty-seventh session, for its consideration.**

Chapter IV
Coordination questions

(Item 5 (a))

A. Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2001

307. At its 6th meeting, on 13 June 2002, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2001 (E/2002/55). The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the report and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

308. It was noted that the annual overview report of CEB for 2001 was comprehensive and provided a good snapshot of the functioning of CEB and its new high-level committees, as well as of the efforts of the organizations of the United Nations system to work together, promoting coherence and synergies, avoiding duplication and maximizing the effectiveness of their work. The various examples cited in the report under three clusters — development and poverty eradication, health and protecting the common environment — were welcomed because they demonstrated the manner in which the system was working together in selected specific areas.

309. The view was expressed that the level of inter-agency coordination in the budgetary field had decreased recently, and that effective and immediate measures should be taken by CEB and its relevant structures to address that problem, especially in view of the need for effective coordination and cooperation between United Nations agencies and organizations in the budgetary field (i.e., exchange of experience, information, techniques and best practices, inter alia, in the area of results-based budgeting). It was also stressed that CEB should reflect the practical results of its reform and its influence on the different areas of inter-agency coordination in its annual reports.

310. It was noted that CEB had made considerable progress in performing its critical role of ensuring and enhancing system-wide coordination of the efforts of the organizations of the United Nations system. It was observed that that function had become even more important in view of the continuing worldwide trend of globalization, as well as the recent decision of the United Nations system to consider the United Nations Millennium Declaration as the overarching policy framework for its programmes and activities in the economic and social sectors.

311. Appreciation was expressed for the continuing attention devoted by CEB to the issues of globalization and its multifaceted dimensions, as well as its relationship to the ongoing efforts of the organizations of the United Nations system in the framework of the follow-up to the Millennium Summit. The report highlighted some of the concerns of the members of CEB in relation to the process of globalization and their efforts to address them. Note was taken in that regard of the Board's consideration of policy measures required to make globalization a positive force for all. Note was also taken of a policy paper prepared by the Director-General of the

International Labour Organization on an integrated approach to policy formulation identifying the social consequences of globalization, whose conclusions were considered to be significant. The observation was made that it would be necessary to elaborate unified strategies to be followed by organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and by civil society organizations to help manage the process of globalization. The question was raised why the annual overview report had focused only on the negative aspects of globalization. It was explained that the important thing was to ensure that globalization worked for all so that its negative effects were minimized and its positive aspects maximized: the report had consequently dwelt on both its negative and positive dimensions. By drawing attention to its negative aspects, it was hoped that executive heads of the organizations of the United Nations system would take appropriate measures to minimize those aspects that would adversely affect the efforts of the United Nations system towards the achievement of the millennium development goals. It was acknowledged that although much had been achieved by the United Nations system, efforts should continue to develop more coherent approaches to all aspects of globalization. On the other hand, the view was also expressed that the report was well balanced on the question of globalization. Another view was raised concerning the necessity of a coherent and coordinated response of the United Nations system vis-à-vis differential access to the benefits of the globalization.

312. A number of issues were raised concerning the millennium development goals, including the status of the goals and whether they had been agreed upon by Member States and whether indeed they constituted the development goals that should be pursued by the United Nations system; whether specific measures were required to address each of the millennium development goals; and finally, whether the Millennium Declaration was the only framework for directing the activities of the United Nations system. It was explained that the Declaration had been adopted unanimously by heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit and that it represented the expression of international consensus at the highest possible level, while at the same time providing a broad framework for actions in the economic and social sectors that drew upon the summits and international conferences of the 1990s. It should thus be quite natural for the system to regard the millennium development goals as an overarching framework for its work. They had been derived from the Declaration as a set of priority development goals to be collectively addressed by the United Nations system organizations. It was also mentioned that each of the goals was being addressed system-wide under the coordination of CEB. It was further confirmed that the pilot inventory undertaken by CEB had indeed been extremely helpful in showing how the activities of the system were contributing to the accomplishment of the goals and in identifying areas in which enhanced efforts were required. In that sense, the inventory was helpful, although it could not be an all-embracing and comprehensive document covering every aspect of the work of the United Nations system. It was also explained that in a similar manner, the examples of successful system-wide inter-agency initiatives and efforts cited in the report did not represent the totality of such initiatives being pursued by organizations of the system, nor, because they were merely a selection, could they include each organization of the system. Those examples were intended merely to demonstrate a cross-section of the types of system-wide initiatives being successfully organized by the organizations of the United Nations system, and the fact that certain agencies were not mentioned among them did not imply at all that they were not interested or not participating.

313. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts of the Secretary-General to reform the former Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and its subsidiary machinery and transform it to the current CEB. The Committee welcomed the successful completion of that process of transition as reported in the report, noting with satisfaction the creation of the High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level Committee on Management; the ad hoc inter-agency networks operating with the help of information technologies; the time-bound, task-oriented task forces under lead-agency arrangements; and the consolidation of the CEB secretariat. Although support was expressed for the new approaches to coordination, a number of observations were made concerning the change of name to CEB; the new modalities of coordination and the new methods of work of CEB and its two high-level committees; the workings of the informal networks of specialists; cost-sharing arrangements; and the consolidation of the CEB secretariat. A number of issues were clarified concerning the functioning of CEB and its high-level committees, including that the responsibility for managing security arrangements rested entirely with the new mechanism established by the General Assembly; that the new arrangements for coordination in different sectors had been designed to allow greater flexibility and provide opportunities for introducing innovative modalities and involving, where necessary, civil society (non-United Nations actors) and a programme that was driven not by calendar but by substance. In addition, the new arrangements would encourage the system to address problems as they arose without having to wait for the next scheduled meeting.

314. The efforts of CEB to promote sustainable development in Africa were noted and support was expressed for the priority attention being given by CEB to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). It was also observed that strong endorsement by CEB of NEPAD as an African-owned, African-led initiative, implemented by Africans themselves, might imply that the United Nations system was disengaging from African development programmes. It was explained that national development was first and foremost the responsibility of national Governments. In NEPAD, African leaders had accepted the responsibility of promoting sustainable development of their continent through a process that was owned and led by them. The United Nations system was committed to fully supporting the African leaders in that important task. The Committee welcomed the decision of CEB that all of its member organizations should review their programmes with regard to supporting NEPAD. A query was raised on the status of NEPAD, and it was explained that the Economic and Social Council had already endorsed the new African initiative, as had the Group of Eight Major Industrialized Countries (G-8). It was also explained that African leaders were currently elaborating an action plan that was to be presented at the forthcoming G-8 meeting in Canada. That and the commitment of the United Nations system to supporting sustainable development of Africa were sufficient grounds for the organizations of the United Nations system to rally behind NEPAD. It was also explained that CEB, in order to ensure a coherent and disciplined support for NEPAD, was coordinating system-wide approaches through the Executive Director of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), who acted as the interlocutor of the United Nations system vis-à-vis the Heads of State Implementation Committee of NEPAD. That arrangement had worked well; regional consultations organized by ECA had helped to identify seven priority areas, as well as United Nations system lead agencies which would, in accordance with their mandates, be responsible for supporting NEPAD in relevant areas. In addition, many executive heads also maintained direct

contacts with the Heads of State Implementation Committee concerning their respective mandates.

315. It was stressed that, in the area of assistance to countries invoking Article 50 of the United Nations Charter, CEB and its relevant structures should pay particular attention to the analysis of specific problems faced by those countries and should develop new proposals and mechanisms for the practical response of the United Nations system in order to provide assistance to third States affected by the implementation of sanctions imposed by the Security Council. It was further noted that methodology for estimating damage caused by sanctions to third States and the relevant compensations scale should be developed. Within the United Nations system, focal "sponsors", capable of leading compensational projects, should be determined from among international financial institutions (i.e., the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank). At the same time, the Security Council's prerogatives in that area should be fully respected. It was also noted that mechanisms should be developed for financing specific sectors of the economy of countries damaged by sanctions on third States invoking Article 50. In that regard, it was stated that the United Nations system's financial institutions and development agencies should be fully engaged.

Conclusions and recommendations

316. **The Committee took note with appreciation of the annual overview report of CEB for 2001 (E/2002/55). It particularly noted the improved format of the report, which more fully responded to concerns raised by the Committee in the past, and especially welcomed the examples cited in the report concerning system-wide initiatives for promoting synergies and coherence in the actions of the organizations of the United Nations system.**

317. **The Committee affirmed its support for the crucial role of CEB in coordinating the efforts of the organizations of the United Nations system to pursue system-wide implementation of the development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which served as the overarching framework for the activities of the United Nations system in the follow-up to the Millennium Summit.**

318. **The Committee recommended that CEB continue to give attention to helping advance unified system-wide strategies to make globalization work as a positive force for all and to strengthen the unique abilities of the United Nations system in coordinating international efforts to help solve social, economic, political and environmental and humanitarian problems in the era of globalization, in particular through the achievement of the development goals of the Millennium Declaration. The Committee further requested information on significant developments in that regard in the context of future CEB annual overview reports.**

319. **The Committee noted the view expressed by CEB that a substantial increase in official development assistance to Africa was one of several crucial conditions required for renewed progress in Africa. The Committee expressed its support for the priority attention given by CEB to the sustainable development of Africa and for its efforts to foster system-wide commitments by organizations of the United Nations system, as well as its role in coordinating the implementation of relevant intergovernmental mandates for systematically**

mobilizing the necessary support for NEPAD. The Committee requested that CEB continue to monitor and report on system-wide support for the NEPAD initiative in the context of its annual overview reports.

320. **The Committee noted with satisfaction the transition of former ACC and its subsidiary machinery to CEB, which should assist CEB in better implementing its tasks to strengthen coordination in the United Nations system, and in that regard recommended that CEB reflect the practical results of its transition in its annual report.**

321. **The Committee stressed that inter-agency coordination in the field of management should be further strengthened, and recommended that progress made in that regard be reflected in future CEB reports.**

322. **The Committee reaffirmed the important role of CEB in coordinating the implementation of the relevant intergovernmental mandates for mobilizing and monitoring the economic assistance provided by the international community and the United Nations system to States confronted with special economic problems arising from the implementation of preventive or enforcement measures imposed by the Security Council, and in identifying solutions to the special economic problems of those States and providing support to the efforts of States affected by the developments in the Balkans for their economic recovery, structural adjustment and development, and in that regard recommended that CEB continue to report on the progress of its work in that field in the context of its annual overview reports.**

323. **The Committee recommended that CEB give due attention to an analysis of specific problems facing countries invoking Article 50 of the United Nations Charter, and that it consider improving procedures for consultations to maintain a constructive dialogue with such States, including through regular and frequent meetings and, where appropriate, special meetings between affected third States and the donor community, with the participation of United Nations agencies and other international organizations.**

B. United Nations System-wide Special Initiative for the Implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s

(Item 5 (b))

324. At its 7th and 8th meetings, on 13 June 2002, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa in the context of the final evaluation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (E/AC.51/2002/8).

325. The Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries introduced the report and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of it.

Discussion

326. Appreciation was expressed for the report on the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa, which was considered to be frank and comprehensive.

327. There was general acknowledgement that after five years of the Special Initiative as the implementing arm of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, its task was done. Its performance was mixed, falling short of the expected goals. This was due in part to the fact that it was conceived on too large a scale; it was an initiative tailored for Africa but designed by others; and it lacked sufficient resources to bring it to fruition. In addition, the lack of effective teamwork among those entrusted with the management of the Special Initiative also led to its poor performance.

328. Nonetheless, there was broad agreement that while the Special Initiative had fallen short in its performance, the experience had provided useful lessons for the future coordination of the United Nations system. The New Partnership for Africa's Development was hailed as an African-designed initiative, which has many prospects for success. It was further stated that as an African initiative, the responsibility for its implementation should rest with African countries, with the United Nations system playing a supporting role alongside other donors. Some delegations expressed the view that priority should be given to HIV/AIDS in the implementation of the Partnership. Emphasis should be placed on building African capacity.

329. Questions were raised about the nature of the interface of the United Nations system with the New Partnership for Africa's Development. It was felt that it was imperative that all United Nations agencies collaborate and pool their diverse and immense expertise in supporting the Partnership. In this respect, the need to develop a strategic operational framework to guide United Nations intervention with respect to the Partnership was stressed. It was also noted that the Partnership would be a useful mechanism for coordinating United Nations development work for Africa and for achieving the objectives set out in the Millennium Declaration related to meeting the special needs of Africa.

330. It was acknowledged that the various trade and aid initiatives of several donors, including Japan, the United States of America and the European Union, needed to be dovetailed in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. There was a need for bilateral donors to be engaged in the process and to support the initiative if it was to stand a chance of succeeding.

331. It was emphasized that the Committee for Programme and Coordination should play an important advocacy role, in addition to monitoring the support of the United Nations system for the Partnership. Particular emphasis was placed on the need for a large resource mobilization effort for the programme, given that the lack of resources was a key impediment to the success of the performance of the Special Initiative.

332. Attention was drawn to the need to identify the role of the relevant structures within the United Nations Secretariat, including the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the United Nations Development Programme in support of the Partnership. A renewed and strengthened Office of the Special Coordinator was described as essential to that effort. Moreover, an appropriate intergovernmental mechanism was also needed to periodically monitor and review the support provided by the United Nations system for the New Partnership for Africa's Development, which would report to the Economic and Social Council and

the General Assembly with measures to be taken to enhance United Nations support for the Partnership.

333. In conclusion, it was explained that the United Nations system had established multi-layered links with the Partnership. ECA was the main interlocutor with the Heads of State Implementation Committee and the Steering Committee of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and it has assisted in drawing up indicators for economic and corporate governance. The Steering Committee has directly contacted various agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to solicit their assistance. Moreover, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and the High-level Committee on Programmes discussed extensively modalities for United Nations system response to the Partnership. Lessons learned from the Special Initiative and the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s would prove useful in tailoring the response to the Partnership. It is to be borne in mind that coordination was most effective at the country level, where Governments should take the lead.

Conclusions and recommendations

334. **The Committee emphasized that the development needs of Africa should remain a high priority on the agenda of the United Nations system.**

335. **The Committee emphasized the importance of applying the lessons learned from the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa to the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development. It was concluded that the Special Initiative had improved inter-agency coordination in Africa and that the thematic cluster arrangements had proved to be particularly useful in fostering inter-agency collaboration at the country and regional levels.**

336. **The Committee noted that the United Nations system, through CEB, had adopted a three-pronged policy towards the New Partnership for Africa's Development, emphasizing the need for the United Nations system to exercise restraint in launching new initiatives, to unite in supporting African-owned and Africa-led initiatives and to promote inter-agency coordination. The Committee stressed the important decisions to be taken by CEB on future United Nations support for programmes in Africa.**

337. **The Committee underlined the need for agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to support the New Partnership for Africa's Development. In this regard, the Committee recommended that the United Nations system articulate a strategic operational framework for supporting its implementation. It was recommended that the proposed framework highlight problems, set goals, determine the respective roles of organizations, indicate resource requirements and introduce performance indicators.**

338. **The Committee emphasized that it should accordingly be involved in monitoring whatever framework the agencies adopt to support the Partnership. It recommended that the Secretary-General be requested to report to the Committee at its forty-third session on the future engagement of the United Nations system with the Partnership.**

Chapter V
Report of the Joint Inspection Unit

(Item 6)

Strengthening the investigations function in United Nations system organizations

339. At its 6th meeting, on 12 June 2002, the Committee considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Strengthening the investigations function in United Nations system organizations" (A/56/282), and the comments of the Secretary-General, as well as those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon (A/56/282/Add.1). The report of the Joint Inspection Unit was introduced by Inspector Khalil Issa Othman.

Discussion

340. The report of the Joint Inspection Unit was appreciated. Views were expressed that the report dealt with a very important component of oversight, namely, that of investigation, and that it built upon previous Joint Inspection Unit reports on oversight. It was considered that the report was informative, timely and topical and its specific recommendations were helpful to the Member States and the secretariats of the United Nations system organizations.

341. There was general endorsement of its recommendations on their own merit and taking into account the information given on endorsement by other governing bodies of United Nations system organizations of those recommendations.

342. Views were also expressed that a number of the comments of the Secretary-General on the report, and especially on specific recommendations, should be considered.

343. The view was expressed that the report would have been more useful to Member States had it provided more analysis of the situation in different organizations.

344. Views were expressed that the report could have also been more beneficial had the views of the different organizations on different issues been more specific.

345. There was general agreement on having recognized common standards and procedures for investigations, especially in view of the conclusions of the Third Conference of International Investigators of United Nations Organization and Multilateral Financial Investigations (7 and 8 March 2002, Washington, D.C.) and the adoption of a "Uniform Standards for Investigations" by the Conference.

346. Views were expressed that the standards and procedures might be further adapted to the circumstance of each organization.

347. Views were also expressed that the comments of the Secretary-General on this issue, especially the legal implications, should be considered.

348. On the issue of training of managers, questions were raised as to the desirability of involving managers in investigation. Views were expressed that it was better to leave that function to qualified investigators. Other views expressed were

along the lines of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit, namely, that since managers do carry out investigations in the absence of qualified investigators, there was a need for training managers in recognized standards and procedures in order to minimize the risks to the investigative process.

349. There was general agreement on the need for a professional investigations capability in each organization and that a risk profile and analysis be undertaken by executive heads of each organization for subsequent consideration by their respective legislative bodies.

350. Views were expressed on options for financing access of small organizations to professional investigations capability and that such options and others be also considered in conjunction with the Office of Internal Oversight Services review being presently carried out on the subject.

351. General agreement was voiced on the issue of organizations adopting preventive measures based on proactive investigations and lessons learned from completed investigations. Views were expressed that proactive investigations were considered to be topical issues for the future.

352. Questions were raised about the distinction between the functions of investigation and inspection; and between investigators and auditors. Reference was made to such a distinction including references to such discussion in the Joint Inspection Unit report.

353. Although not included in the report, a question was raised as to the efficacy of having "resident investigators" in major peacekeeping or humanitarian missions.

354. Concerns were raised about the time lapse between the issuance of the Joint Inspection Unit report and of the comments of the Secretary-General thereon.

355. Views were expressed regarding the desirability of having the comments of the different organizations on the substance and recommendations included in the Joint Inspection Unit reports. It was noted that such views were being favourably considered by the Unit. A number of Joint Inspection Unit reports included such information, but it remained to become more standardized.

Conclusions and recommendations

356. **The Committee welcomed the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on strengthening the investigations function in the United Nations system organizations (A/56/282) and found it informative, timely and useful.**

357. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve recommendations 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6, as contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit.**

358. **The Committee also recommended approval of recommendation 2 on training managers who are already involved in investigative activities, owing to the absence of qualified and experienced investigators on established standards and procedures of investigations, with the understanding that caution will be exercised to ensure that the managers' independence and impartiality in their areas of responsibility is guaranteed, and that clear guidelines spelling out the extent of their involvement at all stages of the investigations process will be provided.**